



THE INDEPENDENT

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THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 1999

(150p) 45p

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Confessions of a
tulip maniac** FRONT

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW

**The good, the
bad and the
Pitts** FILM REVIEWS, P11

Spare the TV, save the child

IN THE EDUCATION TABLOID

Stop the feuding, MPs tell Blair

LABOUR MPS delivered a stern warning to Tony Blair last night that cabinet ministers must "get their act together" and stop the faction-fighting that has provoked the biggest crisis since Labour won power.

The blunt message was given to the Prime Minister at a private Commons meeting with leaders of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP). "It is very serious; we just cannot go on like this," one senior MP said. The attack came as Gordon Brown admitted that ministers had been acting as though they were still in opposition

rather than in government. But in a pep-talk for officials at Labour's My bank headquarters, the Clegg insisted the Government could now draw a line "...in the Cabinet meets today for the first time since the Government's 'black Christmas', Mr Blair is expected to reinforce the backbench demands for unity and discipline. He will order ministers to concentrate on fulfilling Labour's election promises.

Yesterday's meeting of the

However, Mr Blair will risk alienating many MPs and ministers, including his deputy John Prescott, by pressing ahead with his plans to forge closer links with the Liberal Democrats. A meeting of the cabinet committee attended by senior Liberal Democrats this afternoon will discuss a common foreign and defence policy for Europe - the first time its work has extended beyond constitutional reform. In future, the Lib-Lab committee may also debate welfare reform and the single currency.

Labour MPs later urged Mr Blair to abandon any plans to give the former trade secretary an early recall to the Cabinet. Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, said: "The party has

Soley, the chairman of the PLP, called on the Cabinet to show the recent ministerial feuding. Gwyneth Dunwoody, who became an MP in 1966, said: "This is the most disciplined PLP I have ever been a member of. It is a pity that the same level of discipline is not being shown by some individuals in the Government."

Kevin Barron, the MP for Rother Valley, said he had discussions with the Government's actions with 50 members of his constituency party, who were all "extremely disappointed" at what had happened. Clive

been bruised and our reputation has been damaged by this incident. Nobody wants to have a witch-hunt against Peter Mandelson personally. He has been a very able minister and has contributed a great deal to our party. But that impression of sleaze is there and he has to have at least a couple of years on the back benches, and one hopes that that is a very fruitful period."

Labour MPs later urged Mr Blair to abandon any plans to give the former trade secretary an early recall to the Cabinet. Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, said: "The party has

don't think he's going to be back in the Government in the near future," he said. The Prime Minister also offered little hope of an early comeback when he told BBC Radio 5 Live: "The future is going to have to look after itself. I do not give any guarantees, any commitments on that."

William Hague told Mr Blair in the Commons that recent events had been a disgrace.

"While the NHS has been in crisis, personal feuds have taken the place of political principle, personal loans have taken the place of political priorities."

the Tory leader said. He also mocked Mr Blair as "St Tony, the Angel of Islington" after it was disclosed that the Prime Minister had visited St Thomas' Hospital at Westminster to talk to nurses the previous night.

Mr Blair admitted there were "still huge problems in the health service" but argued that it was impossible to "put right 20 years of neglect in schools and health in 20 months".

Hospital visit page 2
Leading article,
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Review page 3

Shares dive worldwide in new panic

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

THE WORLD'S financial markets plunged into chaos yesterday, just two days after central bankers meeting in Hong Kong had prematurely toasted the end of the global economic crisis that started in Asia 18 months ago.

Two of the biggest emerging economies, Brazil and China, separately moved closer to the verge of financial meltdown, putting at risk billions of dollars they owe to Western banks and investors. Share prices dived in London, New York and other main stock markets in panic-stricken conditions.

President Bill Clinton was briefed on the financial emergency by Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary. Larry Summers, his deputy and the architect of the recent Brazilian and Asian financial rescues, cancelled all his appointments to deal with the crisis.

Brazil abandoned the defence of its currency yesterday, causing its central bank governor to resign in breach of the terms of the \$41.5bn international bailout agreed with the International Monetary Fund before Christmas. The decision to devalue came in response to the massive flight of capital

from Brazil, amounting to some \$6bn since the beginning of last month, and well over \$1bn a day in the past two days.

The move will cause heated recriminations amongst ministers from the leading G7 economies. With finance ministers and central bankers due to meet in Bonn next month, and deputy finance ministers meeting this weekend, the global crisis has returned to haunt them just as they had begun to hope that their own economies would escape unscathed.

For the American administration, in particular, the economic outlook - and voter approval of President Clinton - depends on a buoyant stock market keeping consumers spending and businesses hiring staff.



Traders on the floor of the Bovespa in Sao Paulo yesterday, when Brazil came close to financial meltdown and devalued its currency

Inacio Teixeira/AP

"We have a strong interest in seeing Brazil, with whom we have worked on so many important things around the world, carry forward with its economic reform plan and succeed," the President said yesterday. "We certainly hope that they will."

But concerns about Brazil yesterday were dwarfed by the fear that China, the giant among emerging economies, might default on some of its debts or make Western investors worth far less by devaluing its currency. Yesterday, Guangdong Enterprises, a government holding company for businesses in the province neighbouring Hong Kong, revealed that it had debts amounting to almost \$3bn.

Investors had been willing to overlook the weak financial position of these businesses, ranging from construction to

brewing, because they assumed the state would guarantee repayments. Now they are being asked to delay calling in loans and to invest new capital.

Markets crash, page 12
Business outlook, page 12
Analysis, page 19
Hamish McRae, page 19

Yemenis free kidnap Briton

JOHN BROOKE, the British oil-worker kidnapped in Yemen, is due to be reunited with his wife this morning, having been released yesterday by his captors.

He was taken hostage by tribesmen on Saturday night from the oil installation in the north of the country where he was working as an engineer.

His release came as three Islamic guerrillas were put on trial for kidnapping 16 Western tourists last month. Four of the hostages, including three Britons, died during a rescue attempt by Yemeni forces on 29 December.

The guerrillas yesterday admitted seizing the tourists, saying that they were taken in revenge for the British



John Brooke: 'Totally elated' to be free

reassure myself that the news is true."

There were no details of how the crisis was solved. The kidnappers originally demanded the release of a fellow tribesman who was arrested by the Yemeni authorities three months ago on a murder charge.

Gang leaders confess, page 4

Damning verdict on first private child jail

BRITAIN'S FIRST privately run children's jail is badly designed, poorly managed and employs staff with inadequate experience, according to a scathing report by government inspectors to be published today.

The Home Office minister Philip Boating will use the report to issue a stinging rebuke to Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary that runs the jail.

The Medway Secure Training Centre in Kent has had a troubled history since it opened last April to cater for persistent offenders aged 12 to 14.

The centre was the scene of rioting in June and three months later it was visited by a team from the Department of Health's Social Security In-

ment holding company for businesses in the province neighbouring Hong Kong, revealed that it had debts amounting to almost \$3bn.

Some of the weapons used by the young rioters were pieces of metal and plaster that had been easily prised from the building.

The report is understood to criticise the jail's management for the high turnover of staff, 30 of whom have left since the centre opened.

It is also expected to highlight the failure of the centre to ensure that the child inmates were given the agreed amount of education and physical activity.

Rebound, which has already

been shown the report, is understood to have protested to the Government that the children placed in its care were more disruptive and from more damaged backgrounds than they had been led to expect.

A government official said: "Rebound should apologise for the mistakes they have made. They skimped on the staff and they skimped on the building materials."

But the jail's management are believed to have told inspectors that Medway was designed exactly to agreed specifications, which would have been sufficient had many of the children not continued to repeat long-held habits of absconding and violence.

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THE INDEPENDENT
ABROAD

Australia
0.50 AS

Canada
0.50 CS

Denmark
18.00 DK

Ireland
18.00 DK

Germany
4.50 DM

Hungary
25.00 Ft

Iceland
50.00 ISK

Israel
12.00 Sheq

Italy
5.00 L

Netherlands
5.50 guilders

Singapore
\\$5.55

Switzerland
5.00 SF

UK
25p PA

USA
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0.25

New Zealand
0.50 NZD

Portugal
0.50 Esc

Russia
10.00 Rb

Spain
16.00 Pt

Sweden
700 Dr

UK
5.00

USA
\\$5.55

Yugoslavia
\\$5.55

Other countries
varies

ROBERT
TAKING

BBC1

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'I know you're incredulous. From rambling to runway – am I nuts? What about my cellulite? My glasses?' 

JANET STREET-PORTER: DIARY OF A CATWALK MODEL

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE McEVoy, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITEMAN SMITH

PM attacked over private visit to wards

TONY BLAIR disclosed yesterday he had been on a Princess Diana-style visit to a hospital casualty ward to find out for himself about the stress facing overworked nurses coping with soaring numbers of patients suffering from the flu outbreak.

The Prime Minister spoke to nurses and patients during the hour-long unannounced visit to St Thomas's hospital opposite the House of Commons before giving a clear signal at Question Time that the nurses can expect an inflation-busting pay increase to tackle nurse shortages.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman appeared to contradict Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, who last week admitted that the NHS was in crisis over the extra pressures caused by the flu outbreak. "He did not come away thinking that the health service is in crisis," said the spokesman.

That may have risked repeating history with headlines saying: "Crisis – what crisis?" Twenty years ago, James Callaghan returned from Guadeloupe and earned the

same headlines after dismissing an economic crisis, and went on to lose the general election. But a hospital spokeswoman said: "To be perfectly honest, we are not in crisis here. It has been very busy, but we are coping. It is no worse than it was last year."

Nursing unions accused the Prime Minister of making "empty promises" on pay and insisted there was a crisis. Liane Vennier, Unison deputy head of health for the London area, said: "I think the fact that the Prime Minister has visited a hospital is a sign that the Government is taking the issue seriously but he cannot say there is no crisis. Ask any hospital nurse who is working very long hours for very, very low pay in an overstuffed hospital and they will tell you I am going to address it."

William Hague, the Tory leader, poured scorn on Mr Blair's visit, ridiculing the Prime Minister as "St Tony of Islington", raising comparisons with Diana, Princess of Wales, who was in the habit of making secret late-night visits to hospital wards, including the operating theatre, and visited St Thomas's on at least three occasions. Nurses warned against empty promises on pay. "Promises are not good enough. They are no good to a nurse working long hours for next to nothing," said the Unison spokeswoman.

Parliament, page 8



This orphan pygmy hippo makes her public debut at Whipsnade wild animal park where she is doing well being raised by keepers after her mother died during an emergency Caesarean four weeks ago Fiona Hanson

Lawyers to speak for Chile

BY KIM SENGUPTA

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which want General Pinochet tried.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, the chairman at yesterday's Lords hearing, confirmed *The Independent's* report that senior law lord had stepped down from the new panel after the general's legal team objected to his fund-raising links with Amnesty. Leading article, Review page 3

A SIGHTSEEING trip to Downing Street was offered to Labour supporters as a prize in a fund-raising draw.

The trip was advertised for today but was cancelled amid apparent confusion over whether the Prime Minister's residence had been opened up to visitors.

A Labour spokeswoman claimed that any MP could now take constituents into No 10 under government plans to improve public access, but Downing Street said there was no such facility.

Labour supporters in Liverpool had been invited to pay £40 for a coach trip to the House of

Commons, with a buffet lunch and wine included. The proceeds were to go to Fresh Start for Liverpool, a campaign to get Labour re-elected to the city council, and 12 "lucky winners" of a prize draw would be given a tour of Downing Street.

Jane Kennedy, the Liverpool Wavertree MP who organised the event, said she cancelled it when she saw the leaflet advertising the prize draw idea added by party staff was "not appropriate". She said she believed MPs could take groups inside No 10,

though not for party fund-raising. "It was just a mistake ... there was nothing sinister."

A Labour spokeswoman said any constituency MP could invite guests inside Number 10's state rooms, including the Liberal Democrat MP Norman Baker, who wrote to Tony Blair when he heard about the trip, asking when he could take a group from his party.

"He is more than welcome at any time to take Liberal Democrat activists or anybody at all who wants to go into Downing Street," the spokeswoman said. "If he rings up the political office and says he would like to take people round they can

organise it. We were clear that we wanted Downing Street to be a lot more accessible ... It is a public building and this is giving it back to the state."

She was contradicted by a Downing Street spokeswoman who said MPs were not entitled to take groups round, but they could take people to have their pictures taken outside the door if they asked the police in advance.

"As far as we are concerned no such tour was planned and no such tour would be allowed. It is not permissible to use the premises for party fund-raising," she said.

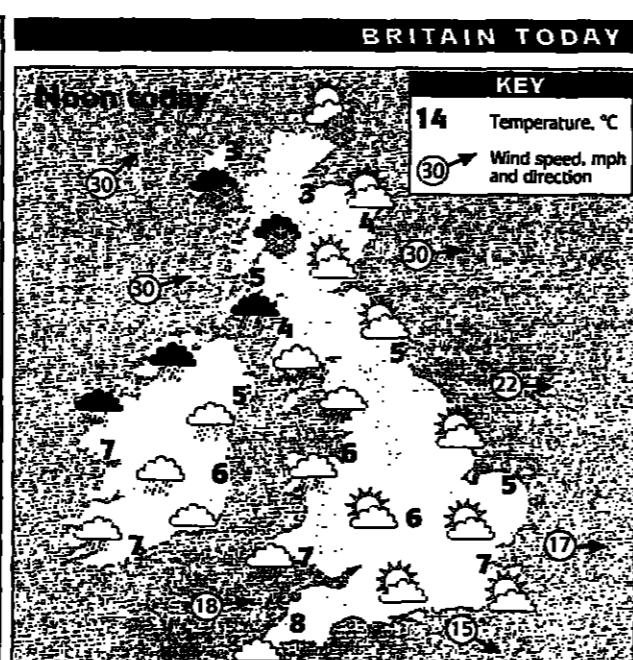
Mr Baker said the idea was "tacky in the extreme".

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FORECAST
General atmosphere: Scotland and Northern Ireland will start cold with isolated wintry showers. A more organised band of rain will move across, falling as sleet and snow on the hills and mountains. It will again be windy, isolated showers across Wales, northern and western England this morning will merge, to give a general band of rain over the mountains. The rest of the UK will remain cold but bright with fewer showers, although an increase in cloud is expected later.

Channel Is., Cest N & SE England, London, E England, E Anglia: It will start cold but generally dry with sunny spells this afternoon. A front will pass through, followed by a cold north-westerly wind (41-46F).

Midlands: A mix of sunny spells and isolated showers this morning. Becoming cloudier with rain moving in later this afternoon. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F).

SW & NW England, Wales, Cest N & NE England, Lake Dist., Isle of Man: Isolated showers this morning. Rain this afternoon with mountain sleet and snow possible. A fresh west to south-westerly wind. Max temp 3-8C (41-46F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Isolated wintry showers and some sunny spells. It will then cloud over bringing rain and hill-snow. A strong to gale force west to south-westerly wind. Max temp 4-8C (37-45F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Rather windy with early showers merging to give some heavy rain. This will fall as sleet and snow over the highlands. A strong to gale force south-westerly wind. Max temp 3-5C (37-41F).

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Run-down, sprawling and decayed. Are our cities the worst in Europe?

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

BRITAIN'S CITIES are among the worst in Europe and face the threat of falling into runaway decay. That vision was outlined yesterday by Lord Rogers of Riverside, now the nation's most influential architect, in a report to the Government.

The key to preventing such a fate lies in the hands of the middle classes, who are leaving cities to seek a better life. If this continues and owner-occupied suburbs continue to sprawl out into the countryside, there is a danger of entire neighbourhoods becoming deserted. The solution, says Lord Rogers, would be compact, attractive urban quarters where people can walk to the shops, work and play. But this will work only if the middle classes can be persuaded once again to live near the centre instead of in "soulless, alienated" suburbs.

Sharing the Vision, produced by the Urban Task Force, which is made up of figures from the development industry, big city councils and academia, says the threat of further decline comes partly from concentrations of poverty in the big cities, bringing crime, disorder and family breakdown.

Lord Rogers, the taskforce chairman, said: "We have seen a worsening of the quality of life in our cities. They have fallen from near the top of the European league to near the bottom. Bad cities brutalise people and they wish to escape from them."

Council and housing associations homes for low-income tenants must mix with owner-occupied housing. "We want a situation where you can't see the difference between social and market housing," said Lord Rogers, designer of the Millennium Dome.

Britain's planners, architects and developers are also at fault for the dismal state of Britain's cities. "There is quite clearly a lack of skills," he said. "I'm particularly conscious of this when I go abroad - there has been a general running-down of our skills. We must move away from the idea that building is a matter of making a fast buck."

Averting the creation of urban ghettos comes at a high price. "An urban renaissance is not going to come easily or cheaply," says the report. Sweeping changes in taxation, legislation and Britain's anti-urban culture will be needed. "The Government, in partnership with the private sector, is going to have to do much more."

Part of the answer is "to drastically limit suburban sprawl and out-of-town development", says the interim report. It welcomes moves already made in this direction, but says: "Much more needs to be done to make it harder and more expensive to develop out of town." Public transport should be favoured above the car "to minimise pollution and congestion".

Lord Rogers and the taskforce's secretary, Jon Rouse,



Lord Rogers, who gave a dire warning that Britain's cities faced the threat of terminal decay John Voos

will say little about their final recommendations. There is intense debate within the group about what these should be.

But they will certainly include new ways of raising finance for urban regeneration, such as tax-breaks for developers, and changes in compulsory purchase powers for councils to make it easier for them to buy blighted land for redevelopment. The taskforce is also expected to recommend new incentives for owning and restoring homes in urban areas, although it denied reports that it favoured removing the tax relief on mortgages for homes built on greenfield sites.

The report says the bad reputation of inner-city state schools are identified as one of the key factors driving home owners out of inner cities. But it also concludes there is a deep seated anti-urban culture. "The English are an urban people who prefer to live in a mock-up of the coun-

tryside." Up to 5 million extra homes are needed over the next 25 years, mainly because people are living longer and spending more years living alone. The task force believes most, but not all, of these will have to be built within existing towns and cities, in ways that enhance rather than overcrowd them. Lord Rogers said about a third would probably have to be built on greenfield sites. The report warns that a mass of new housing was "urbanism on a mega-scale which, if not well planned, could destroy both existing towns and the countryside".

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the kind of cities the taskforce envisaged would have a much-improved environment and far fewer problems of poverty.

But he was attacked by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), represented on the taskforce, for continuing to allow massive

they would be better off living in Lyons. There isn't a Geordie who would swap.

This doomwatch comes at a time when Britain is seen as the hottest - or coolest, depending on your terminology - country in Europe.

The Netherlands shaped up much better than Britain when Lord Rogers took a fact-finding tour there. What impressed him was a mix of low-income families living in two-storey homes mixed with larger apartment blocks around a square which doubles as school playground. He was also impressed by the "high" level of rehabilitation of older terraced properties, as well as Amsterdam's car-free housing programme.

And the key to it all, says Lord Rogers, is quality not quantity, which upholds that old egalitarian modernist maxim "less is more".

Yet the Urban Task Force has to advise the Government which needs more than 4 million new households by 2016. That is about twice the number of dwellings currently in Lon-

URBAN LIFE IN BRITAIN AND FRANCE

LYON

Population: 416,000 (city), 1,963,941 (conurbation)

Public transport: Three high-speed train stations, international airport, metro system, buses.



THE LATEST proof that the 1,963,941 people in France's second city cannot be wrong came in October, when the Mayor of Lyon, Raymond Barre, asked to borrow 100m francs (£10m) for improvements. In two weeks all "Lyon 2000" bonds had been bought.

Yet, according to a survey by the council, most Lyonnais believe they pay too much tax to an ill-organised adminis-

tration. And, in common with most Continental metropolises, the concept of inner-city deprivation is unknown on the bourgeois streets of Lyon, which has a métro and buses, three high-speed train stations and plans for trams.

The trouble is in the suburbs: greater Lyon has some of the most violent high-rise slums in France, where unemployment reaches 25 per cent among second-genera-

tion North African youths. The average joblessness figure for Lyon is 12 per cent.

Twinned with Birmingham since 1951, Lyon is only now losing the 's' which for years inexplicably plagued its ending in English orthography.

This summer, as part of an ever-improving partnership between the cities, "Lyon Week" will be held in Birmingham.

ALEX DUVAL SMITH

BIRMINGHAM

Population: Birmingham City - 989,000. West Midlands conurbation - 2.7 million.

Public transport: InterCity train service. International airport. Suburban railway network. In spring a £145m section of its overground metro opens. Buses.



BIRMINGHAM'S CITY centre has been transformed by ambitious and highly praised new developments during the Nineties.

But its council admits that Britain's second city still has a long way to go. The core is largely surrounded by run-down inner city wards where poverty is concentrated.

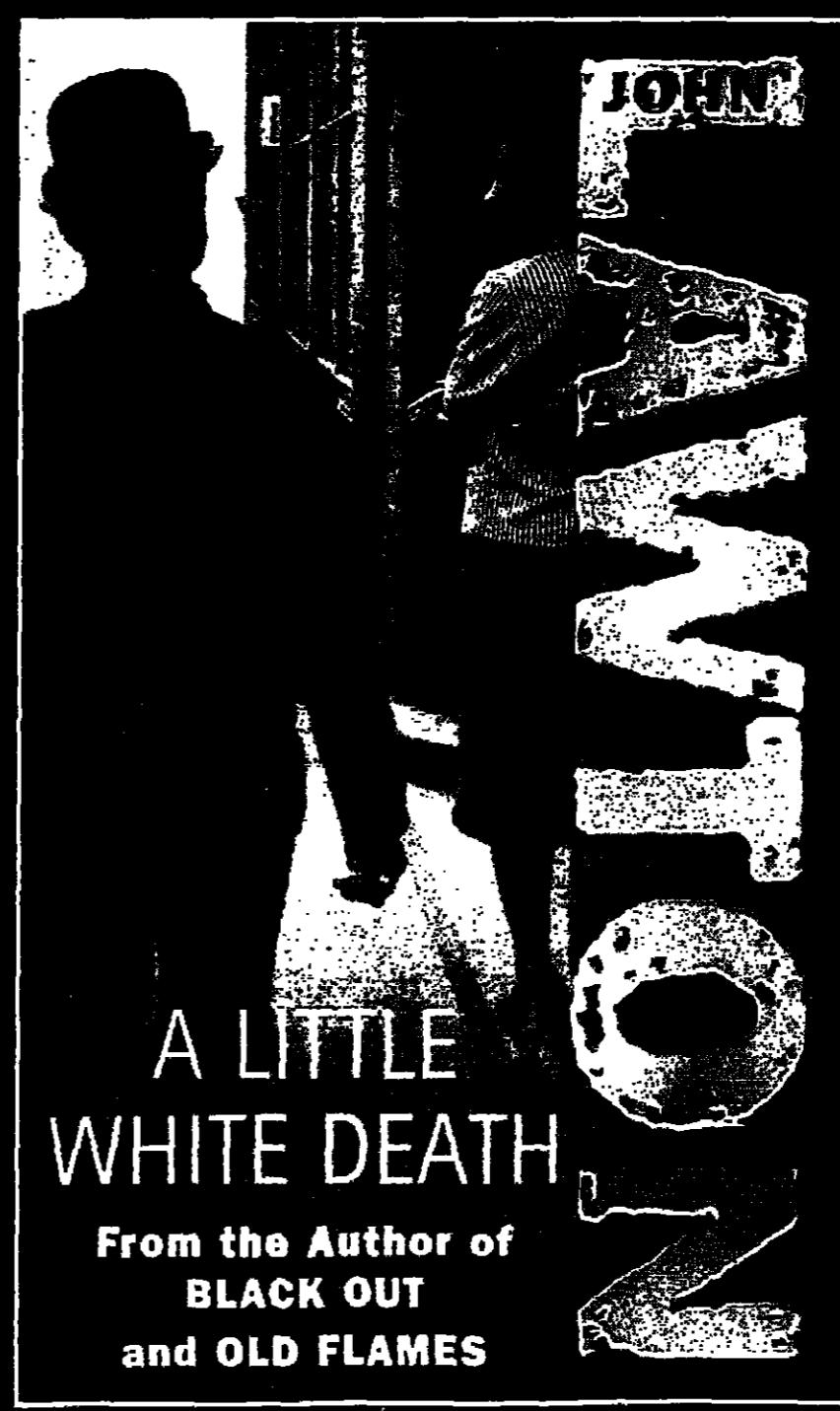
According to a recent Government report, it ranks as the

fifth most deprived council area in England. New apartments being built. The council is teaming up with developers to erase the worst of the grim Sixties developments. And it is breaking through the "concrete collar" of the inner ring road which cut Birmingham's centre off from the rest of the city. The hope is that this regeneration can spread into the run down neighbourhoods beyond.

NICHOLAS SCHOON

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A.N.WILSON, DAILY TELEGRAPH



OUT NOW IN ORION PAPERBACK

Even our poorest areas have sense of civic pride



NONIE NIESEWAND

SINCE WRITING Cities for a Small Planet Lord Rogers has taken to wearing bicycle clips during lectures. It gets everyone's attention when he points out that when cars overrun the city we will not be able to breathe properly, let alone travel anywhere. His favourite slide at these lectures shows small boys playing football on a grassed-over street between rows of terraced houses.

So Lord Rogers comes from a very special position when, as chairman of the Government's Urban Task Force, he claims that "the overall quality of life in English cities has been diminishing for a long time and compares very poorly with other European cities".

John Gummer, former environmental secretary, would not agree. "It's a very difficult case to uphold," he says. "First of all English homes have significantly greater space than Continental homes - a third again. The anecdotal evidence is simple. When we went to look at British council-owned property in the last government we as-

sumed one spare bedroom was proper for each household. Not one other country in Europe would accept that. Or as much garden space."

Even poor boroughs have a sense of civic pride. Try telling the residents of Hackney in north-east London, with their contemporary art studios and galleries, that they are living in an ugly, sprawling area. Or the residents of nearby Tower Hamlets that they do not have a neighbourhood.

Newcastle is now so fashion-

able that advertising agencies try out new products on the locals. Tell the residents that

"This urbanism on a mega-scale which, if not well planned, could destroy both existing towns and the countryside".

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London - Heathrow*	£100	Chester	£96	
London - Regent's Park	£138	Grimsby	£94	
South of England	3 nights	Haydock	£90	
Ashford	£88	Hull	£84	
Basingstoke*	£96	Hull Marina	£104	
Bexley	£88	Lancaster*	£88	
Bristol	£104	Leeds/Bradford	£104	
Croydon	£92	Leeds/Selby	£82	
Dover	£88	Leeds* (The Queen's)	£20	
Fareham*	£96	Liverpool* (The Gladstone)	£82	
Farnborough	£108	Manchester	£82	
Guildford	£108	Manchester Airport	£100	
Havant*	£96	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£84	
Hemel Hempstead	£88	Preston	£84	
Maidstone/Sevenoaks	£96	Sheffield	£90	
Plymouth	£98	Teesside*	£82	
Portsmouth*	£100	Warrington/Warrington	£88	
Reading	£92	Washington*	£80	
Rochester	£84	York	£80	
South Mimms	£96	East of England	3 nights	
Southampton/Eastleigh*	£90	Basildon	£78	
Swindon	£92	Brentwood	£108	
Taunton	£90	Cambridge	£96	
Central England	3 nights	Colchester	£92	
Aylesbury	£88	Epping	£90	
Birmingham	£78	Ipswich	£88	
Birmingham Airport	£114	Norwich	£88	
Birmingham City*	£96	Peterborough	£88	
Coventry	£90	Stevenage	£78	
Derby/Burton*	£88			
Gloucester	£92			
High Wycombe	£90			
Leicester*	£78			
Lincoln*	£82			
Milton Keynes	£94			
Nottingham City	£98			
Nottingham/Derby	£88			
Walsall* (The Boundary)	£82			
Scotland, Ireland and Wales	3 nights			
Aberdeen*	£80			
Belfast	£74			
Cardiff*	£88			
Cardiff City*	£88			
Dublin Airport (IRE)	£114			
Edinburgh*	£110			
Glasgow (Erskine Bridge)	£82			
Glasgow Airport*	£76			
Glasgow City	£78			
Swansea*	£90			

£39

£39 includes breakfast and dinner.

£39 includes breakfast and dinner.</p

Inspectors want 'setting' for 5-year-olds

PUTTING CHILDREN AS young as five in school sets helps to raise standards, inspectors said yesterday.

A survey of 400,000 lessons and 900 schools backs the Government's belief that children achieve more if they are grouped by ability for different subjects. Setting is different from streaming in which pupils of similar ability are taught together for all subjects.

The proportion of setted lessons in primary schools has doubled to 4 per cent in a year.

An analysis of more than 20 major studies recently found that setting and streaming made no difference to pupils' achievement. Children in the bottom sets tended to give up and some of the brighter ones became over-confident about their ability, said the report from the National Foundation for Educational Research.

But inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education said that nearly all of the schools inspected "demonstrated a clear trend of rising standards for pupils of all abilities

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

ities once the use of setting had been established".

The report argued that there was no reason why some setting should not be used, particularly in maths, from the age of five or six, provided that it was sensitively organised.

Inspectors visited more than 50 schools and found that national test scores in setted subjects improved "in some cases spectacularly" between 1996 and 1997.

However, the report warned that setting did not compensate for poor teaching and must be carefully planned. Schools needed to build in safeguards to avoid "the low-esteem and the negative labelling of pupils which can occur in lower sets".

But inspectors found no evidence that pupils in the bottom sets were badly motivated and badly behaved. "The vast majority of pupils see advantages to setting, accept the purpose and fairness of their allocation to a particular set and like

having more than one teacher."

A postal survey of 900 schools found that six out of ten junior schools and more than a third of infant schools used sets for at least one subject. Maths was most commonly setted. Pupils of different ages were taught together in two-thirds of the schools that used sets for maths and one-quarter of those that used sets for English. Boys tended to predominate in the bottom sets and inspectors said schools were not doing enough to discover the reasons.

Schools took into account aptitude and interest as well as test scores when they allocated children to sets. The report pointed out that only a handful of pupils appeared to transfer sets, up or down, and warned that setting needed to be flexible.

Of the schools that used sets, 96 per cent did for maths, 69 per cent for English and 9 per cent for science. A very few also set for French and music and for team games in physical education.



Government inspectors believe that grouping pupils by ability for different subjects causes standards to rise

Martin Rickett

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Firm to bid for hundreds of schools

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

education, and World ORT, an international Jewish training group that has an extensive Internet operation.

Andrew Povey, the Surrey education chairman, said: "We are looking for somebody to come up with new ideas who will make a difference to this particular situation."

Surrey has been backed by the Tory education spokesman, David Willets.

It represents a problem for



Tooley: King's Manor will be just the first'

Mr Blunkett, who said schools will not be run for profit but has accepted that private firms can offer management expertise in the same way as they provide school meals, cleaning and other services.

The largest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers, said it would not rule out legal action to prevent King's Manor being taken over. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, said the local authority had to be responsible for turning round a school.

Education Partnership includes Gareth Newman, head of Brooke Weston City Technology College, in Corby, Northamptonshire, one of the pioneering specialist schools set up by the Conservatives to harness private investment for

Other companies bidding for King's Manor also expressed interest in taking over failing local authority services. Contenders include Nord Anglia and CFBT, both leading educational consultancies and providers of school services.

PC jailed for stealing pensioner's savings

A POLICE officer was jailed for nine months yesterday for stealing £700 from the savings of an 83-year-old widow who asked him for crime prevention advice.

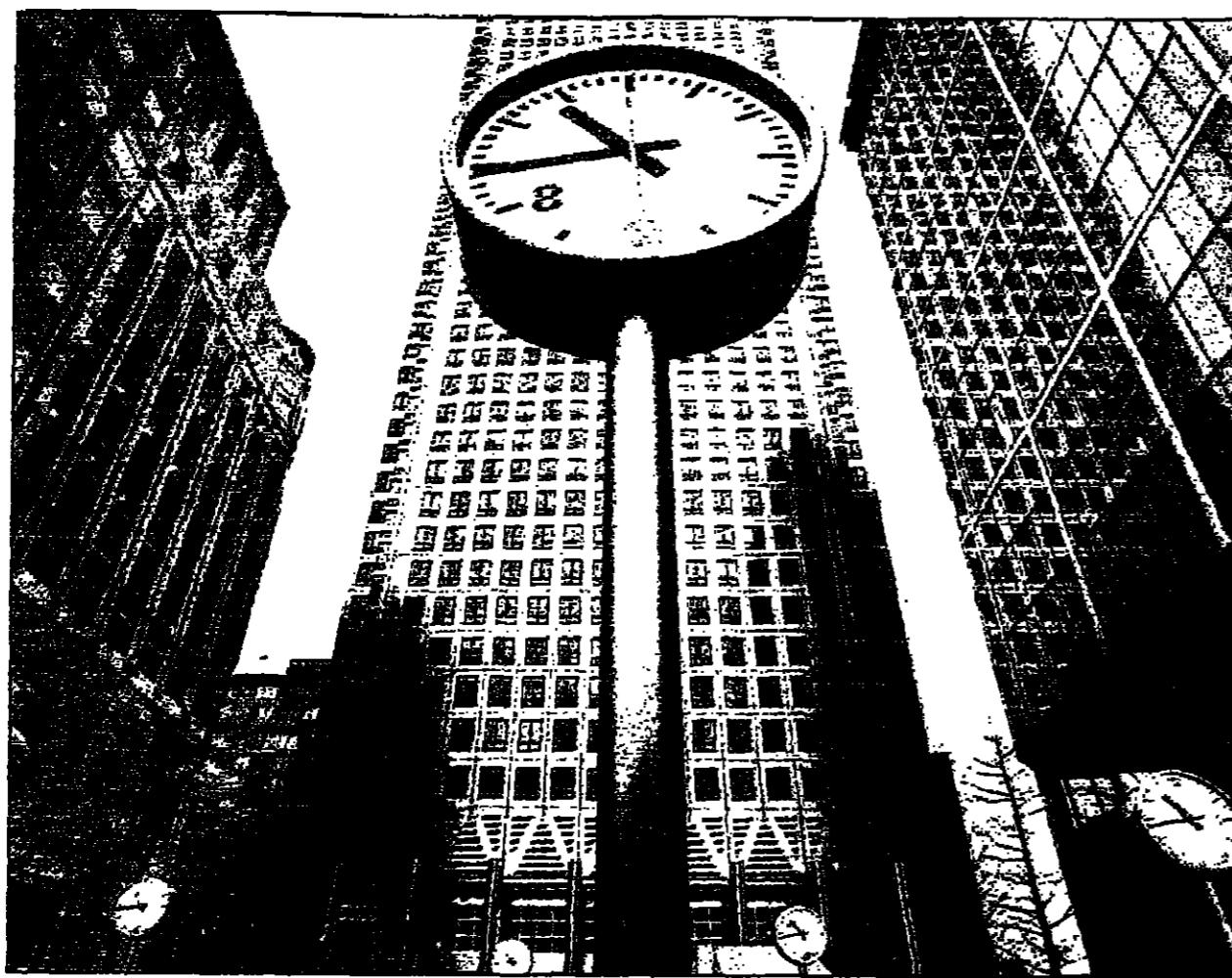
PC Ken Davies, 44, took the cash from Doris Midwood after he visited her flat in Shipley, West Yorkshire, several times to give her "safe tins" in which to keep her cash. Davies was the local community constable. In a three-day trial at Leeds Crown Court the officer, who

was described as "decent and honest" by colleagues, said he took the cash because he was under stress after several deaths in the family and immediately wanted to return it.

Judge Robert Taylor told him: "This was a very serious offence. It involved a grave breach of trust and taking advantage of an elderly and vulnerable person who was looking to you to advise and protect her."

One plan
all 999
service

Warren agr
King £7



Six clocks in Nash Court, Canary Wharf, London, by designer Konstantin Grcic will be seen by commuters as they leave the main entrance of the Jubilee line tube station due to be completed later this year. Philip Meech

One HQ plan for all 999 services

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

lators, which can save heart attack victims' lives if applied in time. They patrol areas of the country which ambulances find it hardest to get to, she said.

Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday he had been pushing the idea of joint call centres for the emergency services for some time.

"The taxpayer can't be expected to pay out three times over and we must look for the best deal for all three services. This means looking at joint control and communication systems," he said.

"The acid test must be better services for patients and the public."

Other innovative schemes being backed by ministers include projects to cut house-buying times by linking all conveyancing agencies on the Internet, and a Scottish scheme to rehabilitate young offenders.

Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet Office minister, and Alan Milburn, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, announced a raft of new projects aimed at saving time and money for the public.

More than 35 schemes to encourage better co-operation between different Whitehall departments and agencies were unveiled under the Government's Invest to Save programme over the next three years.

Joint centres for police, fire and ambulance services are aimed at saving life-saving minutes in response times, as well as cutting costs by getting the three services to co-operate.

The services would not merge all their facilities, but key infrastructure such as vehicle maintenance and telephone call centres would come under one roof. More than £7.8m has been set aside by the Department of Health to create three pilot projects for the new 999 services.

Elizabeth Neville, Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police and one of the bidders for the cash, said that joint centres could save "life-saving minutes" by enabling a more flexible response to emergencies on a "one call brings them all" basis.

Wiltshire already has some police cars fitted with defibrillators.

Warren agrees to pay King £7.2m

BY GARY FINN
said he was still "fond of Frank".

However, Mr Warren conceded that he may have to sell the family home to meet the first repayment.

Under the agreement, Mr Warren acknowledged his obligation to pay Mr King in recognition of his rights as a partner and publicly withdrew all the allegations which he had made against him and his company, Don King Promotions.

Outside court, Mr King commented: "My reputation is most important to me and the vindication of my rights both here and in America. The justice system here has given me justice and I am very, very happy."

Last night, the hefty pay-out seemed to melt the ice between two of the sport's craftiest fixers. Mr King, who will receive his cash in installments

Fewer than three in ten viewers watching BBC1

BY RHYD WILLIAMS

THE CONTINUED growth of satellite television and the success of Channel 5 have combined to push BBC1's audience share below the 30 per cent mark for the first time.

According to official industry figures to be published shortly, BBC1's share fell to 29.5 per cent in 1998 from 30.8 per cent the previous year, a decline almost matched by ITV, which slipped back by 1.2 percentage points to 31.7 per cent.

The drop comes at a sensitive time for the corporation as it sets about convincing both the Government and public of the validity of the universal licence fee in the multi-channel age. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has just appointed a panel headed by the economist Gavyn Davies to advise on setting the level of the fee until 2006.

"You've got to put the fall in the context of 19 new channels coming on stream and a further 12 doing massive relaunches," said a BBC spokeswoman.

"We are all about quality and diversity although obviously we would like to show that to as wide an audience as possible."

Although Sir John Birt, the BBC's director-general has consistently warned that audiences will inevitably decline as channels proliferate, the corporation is acutely aware that the lower its share the more challenging it becomes to argue for a fee levied on every household.

This was one of the chief concerns underpinning the conflict between BBC Broadcast, which

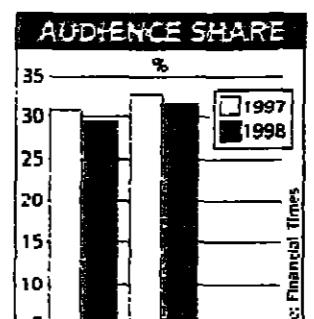
"You've also got the first real effect of Channel 5 being felt."

In any case, the BBC will argue, the corporation exists as a public service broadcaster to provide programmes that other networks do not offer in peak-time such as *The Life Of Birds*, *The Human Body* or current affairs reports such as *Panorama*.

"Our differentiation is our programming," added the spokeswoman. "We are all about quality and diversity although obviously we would like to show that to as wide an audience as possible."

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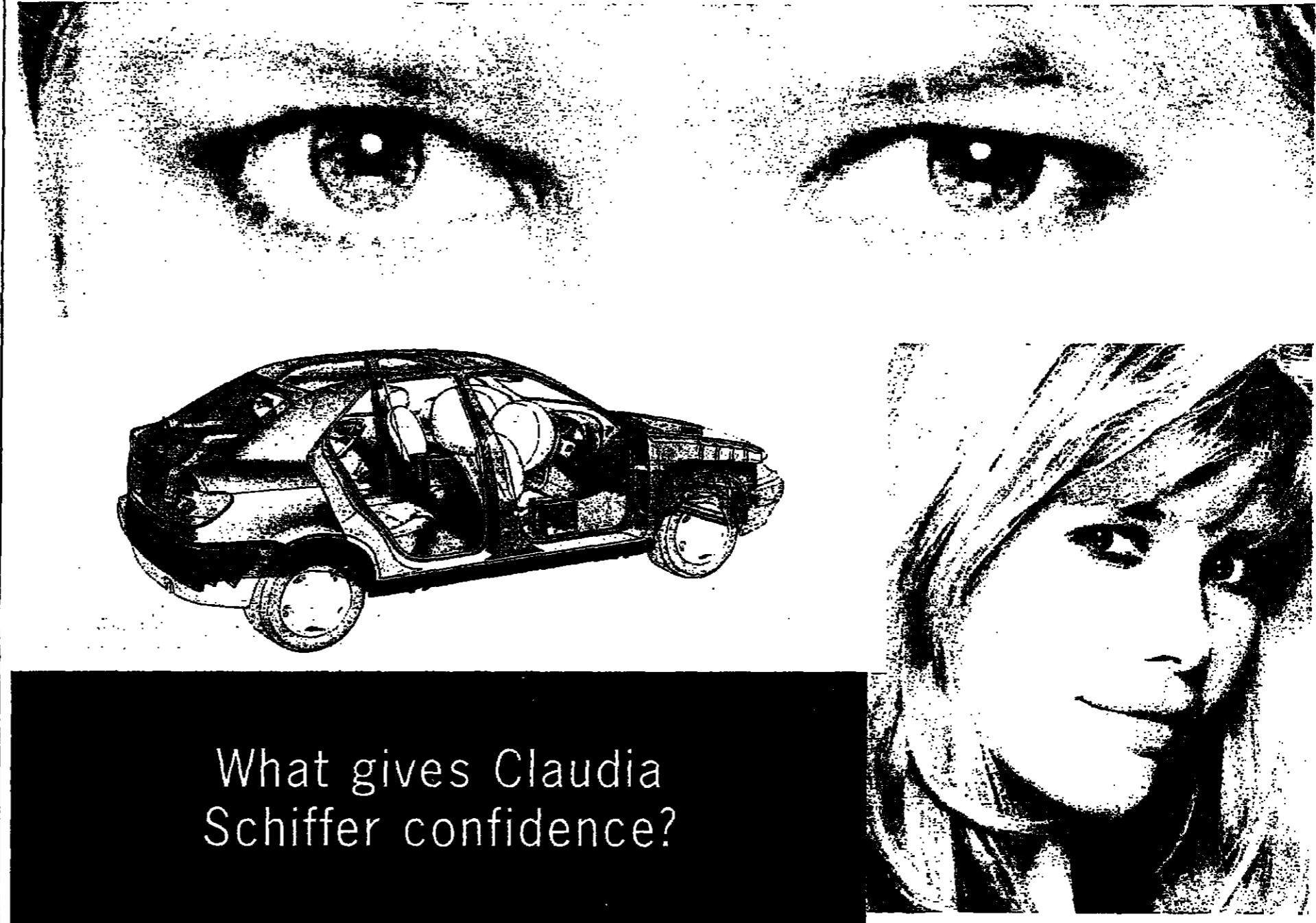
commissions programmes for BBC1 and 2, and BBC News over the recent revamp of the main network's news output.

Conscious that bulletins provided soft spots in peak time against which commercial rivals could schedule popular programming, BBC Broadcast was keen to boost the appeal of the news with more "audience-friendly" presenters such as Jill Dando.

The other likely worry for Sir John is that cable and satellite's gain has so far been, for the most part, ITV's pain. But there is now evidence that ITV's rate of decline is slowing. Under a new management team appointed last year, ITV secured a 37.9 per cent share of viewing between 7pm and 10.30pm, compared with a target of 36 per cent.

The BBC can take some comfort from the fact that BBC2 has held up comparatively well. It slipped back by 0.3 points to 11.3 per cent in 1998, allowing the BBC's overall share to stay above 40 per cent and retain its place as the nation's leading broadcaster. With Channel 4 also retreating (by 0.3 points to 10.3), only one terrestrial network - Channel 5 - increased its audience.

At the end of 1998 its first full calendar year on air, Channel 5 nearly doubled its share from 2.3 per cent in 1997 to 4.3 per cent as its mixture of movies beginning at the 9pm watershed and selected sports events such as Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup campaign last season appears to be paying dividends.



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'Private medicine ruined my life – and couldn't care less'

A PRIVATE patient who has been permanently maimed after the disgraced gynaecologist Rodney Ledward operated on her seven times has had her attempts to obtain help blocked because of the lack of regulation of the private sector.

Anita Hill's experience at the hands of Mr Ledward, who was struck off the medical register last September, fell so far short of acceptable standards that the NHS consultant she went to see recommended she sue for negligence. However, her attempts to elicit a response from Mr Ledward's legal advisers and medical insurers have so far failed.

Mrs Hill, 54, who spent seven years in and out of hospital and at one stage suffered a perforated bowel, was initially refused help by St Saviour's hospital in Hythe, Kent, despite a request from an NHS consultant who said she needed further surgery. St Saviour's is run by the British United Provident Association, Bupa.

The South East Kent community health council accused Bupa of "dragging its heels" over the issue and lawyers for the victim said its refusal to accept a share of the responsibility was "reprehensible".

Later Bupa relented, after being contacted by *The Inde-*

pendent

pendent

pendent, and agreed to offer Mrs Hill a free consultation that is due to take place today. The company also agreed to donate £2,000 to the patient support group set up by the community health council for victims of Mr Ledward.

The lack of regulation of the private health industry is to be investigated by the House of Commons health select committee, starting next month.

Mrs Hill, whose ordeal began 12 years ago, believed she had simply been unlucky until the full extent of Mr Ledward's incompetence emerged in November. More than 400 women have contacted the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, Kent, since he was struck off the medical register in September and over 120 are considering legal action. About half the women, including Mrs Hill, were private patients.

She said: "If it wasn't for the NHS I wouldn't have anyone to help me. They have told me who to turn to and what to do. The private sector have not been to any of our meetings. The message is, 'If you have still got health insurance we can see you but if not, tough'."

She added: "I thought there

would be someone in the private sector to go to if you had problems but I learnt to my cost that there wasn't. My whole life has been ruined and I have had nobody to turn to."

Patricia Fearnley, Mrs Hill's solicitor from Thomson, Snell and Passmore in Tunbridge Wells, which is handling most of the negligence cases, said: "It comes as a surprise to private patients that there is no one to complain to, because they think they are paying for the best in medical care."

A spokeswoman for Bupa said the firm had endeavoured to help Mr Ledward's patients by offering free consultations. She added: "Patients are stuck in a private trap and we don't like the situation. We don't employ consultants as the NHS does and they are not answerable to us. We appreciate it is difficult for the patients but it is difficult for us to help because their complaint is with the consultant, not the hospital."

Operation one: Anita Hill's ordeal began in 1987 when she was referred to Rodney Ledward on her husband's private health insurance for treatment for heavy menstrual bleeding and stress incontinence. He told her that a hysterectomy was the answer.

Operation two: Three months later she was back in St Saviour's hospital complaining of pain in her side. Mr Ledward discovered an ovarian cyst that had been missed when he carried out the hysterectomy. She had an operation to remove it but the wound wouldn't heal.

Operations three and four: She was taken back twice to repair a hernia that

apparently ruptured her bowel and another surgeon was called in and performed an emergency colostomy.

Operation five: Mr Ledward told her she would need hormone replacement therapy and advised her to have hormonal implants, which were replaced every three months.

Operation six: In 1993, pains developed in her right side and she was operated on by Mr Ledward to remove her remaining ovary. She felt nauseous and feverish when she came round from the anaesthetic, but was discharged – only to be sent back by her GP 24 hours later.

Operation seven: After she developed a swollen abdomen, Mr Ledward inserted a vaginal drain and said he would have to operate again. The drain



Ledward: Struck off

had developed and correct a prolapsed bladder. The operations by Mr Ledward failed and she was referred to the NHS where the hernia repair was carried out successfully.

Over the next seven months Mrs Hill underwent two further operations on the remainder of her bowel. The series of operations has left her with a weakened stomach wall and a mis-shaped abdomen. She suffers pain, is prone to vomiting and has been told she needs a further hernia repair and plastic surgery on her stomach to remove scar tissue. Her husband has lost his private health insurance and she took early retirement on grounds of ill health in 1991.

Candid major told to resign

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

MAJOR ERIC JOYCE, who publicly condemned the Army leadership as a clique of white, out-of-touch elitists, has been ordered to resign his commission or be sacked.

The outspoken Black Watch major hopes to stand as a Labour candidate in elections for the Scottish Parliament and critics privately regard his attack on the "officer class" as an exercise in self-promotion.

Major Joyce was told at a meeting with his commanding officer in Aldershot that he would automatically be discharged if he did not resign his commission within two months. Unbowed, he reiterated afterwards he intends to take his case for freedom of speech within the Army to the European Court of Human Rights.

Major Joyce breached Queen's Regulations by writing a pamphlet for the Labour-affiliated Fabian Society and has appeared before the Army Board, accused of speaking about the Army without its permission. In the pamphlet he alleged the Army was racist, snobbish and outdated.

Major Joyce rose through the ranks in the Black Watch and is on the staff of the Adjutant General's Corps, the Army's administrative branch. He said yesterday it was "terribly important" soldiers should be allowed to speak freely and he condemned the "obsession" of the Army top brass with an "officer class". He said Queen's Regulations were "a convention" and not legally enforceable.

Major Joyce is being dealt with under a procedure allowing unsuitable personnel to leave the Army.

The Ministry of Defence said attitudes in the Army were evolving. "We are a meritocracy. If you are not good enough, you don't get on. We're not interested in a person's background, class or school."

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Rise of healthy but troubled generation



Life was hard for these Glaswegian children in 1948, but modern children, although less likely to succumb to disease, face new problems

THE LIVES of children entering the new millennium have been transformed by 50 years of medical breakthroughs. But the improvements have been tempered by the persistence of the poverty trap and growth in juvenile crime, according to a new report.

Diarrhoea, bronchitis and tuberculosis are no longer the killers they were in 1949. Instead suicide is among the top 10 causes of death for young

BY LOUISE JURY

people today. And although housing has improved since the days when only half the country had piped water, a cooker and a fixed bath, 70,000 children faced homelessness last year.

The snapshot survey of then and now has been drawn from official statistics by the Variety Club of Great Britain, which is marking half a century of

raising money to help children. Jan Welsh, the report's author, said: "In 50 years, Britain has seen vast changes. After the Second World War children had to live in a country still devastated by the conflict. Life was tough but straightforward when compared with the life children face today."

Breathroughs in medicine have cut the child death statistics to hundreds rather than thousands. The expansion of

universities and cuts in classroom sizes have improved education. But the divorce rate is four times higher than it was 50 years ago and children of lone parents are among the most impoverished.

Fifty years ago, a baby boom

was under way among couples who had put their lives on hold during the war years, the report notes. Despite an 18 per cent increase in the population since then, there were nearly as

many young people as there are today - more than 14 million.

The death rate was similar to today's with just over 1 per cent of the total population dying each year. "But children were far more likely to succumb to fatal diseases in 1949 than they are now," Ms Welsh said.

Better nutrition, improved living conditions and the NHS immunisation programmes have helped to cut the figures. The report suggests that be-

cause death by disease is less likely, parents' fears that their child may be murdered have increased. Although homicide rates were slightly higher in 1949, the relative importance has risen. "When compared to the other dangers that exist for children in the late 1990s, the possibility that they might be murdered is stronger in comparison to other possible causes of death - because death by disease is now so unlikely."

When teenagers started work in 1949, they were paid relatively low wages. On average, a man aged under 21 earned 58 shillings and sixpence (£2.92 a week) which, taking account of inflation, would be an annual wage of £2,872 today. Girls under 18 earned the equivalent of £2,160. The report said: "Even the lowest paid just-out-of-school workers today would get at least £5,000 a year."

But alongside the good news comes bad. Although fewer young people are found guilty of burglary, boys and girls are now committing significant numbers of violent crimes.

Some subjects are impossible to compare. Child abuse was barely recognised half a century ago.

Professor Sir Eric Stroud, whose charity work at King's Hospital, Lewisham, south London, was supported by £2m of Variety Club money, said there was no doubt the health of children was better than it had been 50 years ago.

Philip Burley, head of the Variety Club, said many medical and health problems may have been solved, though other social and political problems remained. "They are much harder to solve and are really the challenge for the future."

THE FREEMASONS have agreed to review the way they treat female employees after a woman clerk accepted an undisclosed sum in settlement of a claim of sexual harassment by a senior Mason.

The out-of-court settlement saved the Masons from a potentially embarrassing two-day industrial tribunal, due to begin yesterday, which would have shown an unwanted spotlight on the inner workings of the United Grand Lodge, the headquarters of English and Welsh Freemasonry.

Ms Delaney told *The Independent* she could not sleep the night before the senior Mason returned to work. "I felt as if I had to go in and show willing but I could not cope. I left at one o'clock and cried all the way home. People on the Tube thought I was mentally ill," she said.

On the advice of a doctor she took sick leave and has not been back to work for four months. She alleged that her treatment caused her to lose ten pounds in weight as she suffered humiliation, demoralisation and lack of confidence.

Mr Daniel said after the settlement: "There was an investigation. I had a panel and I had independent people on that panel with expert advice and they upheld some of the allegations. The complainant was not happy with some of the remedies put forward by the panel but has now agreed to settle and the matter is now closed."

In support of her case, Ms Delaney was due to call as a witness a second female employee, Donna Hanson, who reached an out-of-court settlement with the Masons after bringing her own action for sexual discrimination.

Freemasonry, which is known to members as "The Craft", has gone to great lengths in recent years to dispel its reputation for secrecy. It maintains that it is simply a private organisation, no more secret than any other that chooses not to disclose details of its membership.

The United Grand Lodge, which traces its origins back to 1717, oversees the administration of more than 7,800 lodges in England and Wales, with a collective membership of some 350,000.

Payout for sex victim of Masons

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mason being called before a disciplinary hearing last September.

The Mason admitted some of the charges against him and was found guilty of gross misconduct. But the Masons' grand secretary, Jim Daniel, decided the offences did not warrant dismissal and, despite the protests of Ms Delaney, allowed him to return to his previous post the same month.

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MEPs back away from 'nuclear option'

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
AND KATHERINE BUTLER
in Strasbourg

A BLOODY European Commission looks set to cling on to power today after a dramatic eleventh-hour threat to quit by its President Jacques Santer paid off by calling the bluff of the European Parliament.

MEPs were last night poised to draw back from a threat to vote the Commission out of office after a day of turmoil in which Mr Santer warned he would resign if they voted to sack Edith Cresson, the former French Socialist Prime Minister. The Brussels executive could still find itself out of power in the unlikely event of a majority calling for the resignation of the scandal-tainted Mrs Cresson in a vote today.

Sacking the Commission body would be an unprecedented act which would plunge the European Union into crisis. It would halt key reforms to the common agricultural policy and the £60bn annual budget needed to prepare the Union for enlargement.

Strasbourg was engulfed by intrigue yesterday as the Commission's future hung in the balance. A desperate scramble was underway in the parliament's committee rooms while Commission supporters – mostly Socialist MEPs – sought to fight off a motion of censure, the so-called "nuclear option" which would vote the Commission out of office, and another motion singling out individual Commissioners for blame.

Mr Santer moved to ensure his own survival in the small hours of yesterday morning when he issued a challenge to the biggest grouping, the 202 MEPs of the centre-right Christian Democrat group. The tactic prompted up to 80 conservatives to pull back from the brink when he made it clear that a resolution targeting Mrs Cresson, the Commissioner for education, would prompt him to resign, probably bringing the entire Commission body with him.

The Christian Democrats backed off and instead of "naming and shaming" Mrs Cresson and Manuel Marin, a Spanish Vice-President of the Commission, were planning a resolution severely criticising EU financial mismanagement.



Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, with Edith Cresson, the French Commissioner, at the beginning of a meeting of the 20-strong team of Commissioners in Strasbourg yesterday

Reuters

All week MEPs had been talking up the "nuclear option" of sacking the full Commission body over a burgeoning fraud and nepotism scandal which dates from 1995.

Over dinner in the European Parliament's plush riverside restaurant late on Tuesday evening, about 20 centre-right Euro MEPs had gathered in the cavernous red-carpeted room. They were questioning Mr Santer about the crisis when he dropped the bombshell by threatening to plunge the EU into a constitutional crisis by resigning himself if MEPs tried to censure any members of his team.

A row over the EU 1996 budget was suddenly spinning out of control and threatening meltdown – much as Monica Lewinsky's allegations against

President Bill Clinton came seemingly from nowhere to threaten his presidency.

Yesterday, in a nondescript meeting room beside the Parliament's hemicycle, Tory MEPs met with Sir Leon Brittan, another Vice-President of the European Commission, seeking to avert a showdown. But when Sir Leon sought to mollify the MEPs by offering a new committee to investigate the fraud allegations, one MEP responded: "What's the point of a group of wise men when we want blood?"

Most of the details of fraud and irregularities date back several years, but two sitting Commissioners have been singled out for attack.

Mrs Cresson has come in for acute criticism over alleged poor administration of a youth

training programme and for "favouritism" in awarding of contracts.

Mr Marin faces questions about the administration of the multi-billion pound humanitarian aid budget. "Echo", which he controlled until 1995, and the "Med" programme, designed to help Mediterranean countries.

When, in December, the Parliament's budget control committee refused to sign off a set of accounts relating to 1996, the Socialists proposed today's censure motion, which was intended to fail, as a means of giving the Commission a vote of confidence.

That initiative, made by Pauline Green, leader of the Socialists (the largest group in the Parliament), backfired badly. With a two-thirds majority needed to expel the Commission, adoption of the censure motion seemed impossible. But last week Commission bureaucrats in Brussels enraged MEPs by suspending a whistle-blowing official, Paul van Buitenen.

The ensuing row provoked the power struggle between the Parliament and the unelected college of 20 Commissioners.

As a welter of further revelations rocked the Commission, the Socialist position proved more and more difficult to sustain. Not only had Mr Van Buitenen's predicament raised the temperature, but also Mrs Cresson showed no signs of bowing to a growing clamour for her departure.

With her MEPs concerned that they were appearing to be

highlighted by a Tory MEP, Edward McMillan Scott (right). Two officials face criminal charges for allegedly defrauding European Year of Tourism of up to £3m. The case continues.

November 1995: European Court of Auditors refuses to certify EU's annual accounts after discovering that almost £3bn not properly accounted for.

Late 1996: European Parliament, concerned by the Commission's slow response on tourism fraud, threatens to freeze 10 per cent of Commissioners' salaries. Commission sets up taskforce.

November 1996: Court of Auditors once more refuses to certify EU's accounts amid signs of lax controls over around £2.5bn.

Early 1997: Finnish Commissioner Eriki Liikanen (above) announces plan to root out nepotism in Commission and improve financial controls.

March 1998: Parliament holds up EU budget again, pending promised concessions from Commission.

October 1998: Allegations in French press about cronyism in education and training department of French Socialist Commissioner Edith Cresson (right). She threatens lawsuits. More allegations about loss of £1.7m in

humanitarian aid money because of irregularities going back to early 1980s when the Spanish Commissioner, Manuel Marin, was in charge of programme.

October 1998: Santer promises independent fraud office to replace Uclar, Commission's fraud unit, in bid to fend off German MEPs' threats to table motion of censure.

December 1998: Parliament refuses to discharge budget after Commission issues a "back us or sack us" threat. Pauline Green (right), leader of the Socialist group,

tables a censure motion she knows will fail – in effect a tactic to bring about a vote of confidence in the European Commission.

January 1999: News of suspension of Commission whistleblower Paul van Buitenen (below right) reaches Parliament. He has already sent a 34-page dossier of allegations to Green group in Parliament. Support for sacking the entire Commission builds dramatically among angry MEPs across political spectrum.

His \$300,000 job suddenly at risk. Jacques Santer promises "zero tolerance" in an eight-point clean-up plan, including unfettered access to documents by a select committee of Parliament and an end to nepotism in appointments.

individuals, and constitutionally Mr Santer cannot sack them either. But even this is an anomaly. Mr Santer told one group of MEPs that any minister in his native Luxembourg who stood accused of similar charges would have resigned.

But the mood among the 20-strong Commission was also defiant. Appointed by national governments, the Commissioners include experienced and streetwise politicians such as Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, and Sir Leon, both of whom wanted to stand firm. Several are due to leave their posts in the summer; others just couldn't stomach the idea of caving in. At their meeting on Tuesday, one Commissioner said he would "rather be sacked than crawl" to the Parliament.

Santer, a burgomeister airbrushed into history

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

FOUR YEARS ago, when he succeeded Jacques Delors, *The Independent* wrote that Jacques Santer, the unknown, largely unremarkable prime minister of Luxembourg, had been "airbrushed into history" when he was chosen head of the European Commission. Yesterday, he came within a whisker of being airbrushed out of it.

The man who occupies the most important job in the European Union was nearly removed from it. And apart from a face suddenly removed from the ceremonial photographs, scarcely a soul would have noticed.

Jacques Santer has left no enduring mark on the governance of Europe. True, he has been present at great events – the Treaty of Amsterdam, the start of enlargement to the east, above all the launch of the single currency – but more as Rosencrantz or Guildenstern than Hamlet. No "plan Santer", no "Santer initiative", will trouble future students of the new Europe. He will be remembered only as the first Commission president to be pushed to the brink of resignation by the European Parliament.

Even the sins of fraud and nepotism for which his Commission is being held to account are not his own. The worst Mr Santer can be accused of is not running a tight ship. In reality, his threatened departure was a measure of the imperfections of the European constitution, which gives the Strasbourg parliament the stark choice of sacking either the entire Commission or none of it. For a man thrust into a job he did not seek, it would have been a slightly unfair end.

Mr Santer was a lawyer and civil servant before entering politics and becoming an MEP party leader and eventually prime minister in 1989. However the image that most lingers is that of alderman of the city of Luxembourg, a post he held for three years in the late 1970s. Silver-haired, ruddy-



The EC building in Brussels yesterday, where the fraud scandal is preoccupying the media

cheeked and with a suitable touch of embouchure, he is the burgomeister made flesh. Affable and easy going, Mr Santer is a firm believer that few of life's problems cannot be solved over a decent lunch.

After the intense and visionary Jacques who preceded him, this Jacques was probably what Europe wanted: an anti-Delors, a man from a small country who depended on his patrons (first and foremost Chancellor Helmut Kohl, someone who would not rock the boat. And until this week, he has not).

To give Mr Santer his due, in a quiet fashion – and contrary to appearances created by the current kerfuffle – he has begun to reform the Brussels bureaucracy, a matter his predecessor would not stoop to attend to. His problem is that, unlike his predecessor, he is not feared by those around him. Now that Mr Delors has gone, old baronies are reappearing.

The commissioners who count are those such as Leon Brittan, Mario Monti, Karel Van Miert, even that indefatigable headline-grabber, Emma Bonino. Mr Santer is the front-man, long on bonhomie but short on influence.

But if so, that is also a reflection of the times. All the prestige of Mr Delors could not mask the shift of EU power away from Brussels to national capitals, which began in earnest with the negotiation of the Maastricht treaty. The member states wanted a weak president in Brussels, and they chose one.

Curiously, Mr Santer largely owes his appointment to the British, courtesy of John Major's veto of the favourite to succeed Mr Delors, the then Belgian prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene. By a process of elimination, they arrived at Mr Santer, who had the further advantage for the government in

London of being, it was assumed, a less than ardent believer in the F-word.

As not infrequently in matters European, the British got it wrong. To call a Luxembourger a federalist is almost a tautology. How could it be otherwise in a country the size of Oxfordshire, wedged between France, Germany and Belgium, whose history has largely been written beyond its borders? In addition to the local Leizelburg dialect, Mr Santer speaks French and German, as well as the endearingly accented English of a continental villager from Gilbert and Sullivan. By instinct, a Luxembourger thinks European. The British had secured their low-profile president – but not a president who would slow the EU's self-propelling momentum towards greater integration.

For a while, Mr Santer's sheer blandness seemed as if it might earn him a second five-year term. This crisis has obviously dashed those hopes; but even before the corruption charges engulfed his Commission, the political winds in Europe had moved against him. In 1994 he had the crucial backing of conservative governments in London and Bonn. Today the centre-left rules in Germany and Britain – and almost everywhere else for that matter; the new presidential photofit suggests centre-left and a large EU country. Centre-right Luxembourgers need not apply.

And so to the present crisis, which has shown Mr Santer at his worst. Even the most genial burgomeister, especially one who is not directly elected to the job, is apt to become a mite arrogant after a while.

In truth, it would be amazing if there was a fraud in a total EU budget of £60bn. What sticks in the craw is the burgomeister's unconcealed feeling that the very suggestion something is amiss in the town hall is an impertinence, an indignity to which his institution should not be subjected. But it has been, and both the EU and Jacques Santer are probably the better for it.

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Senate trial: As Hillary pays the price of one of his affairs, President Clinton faces the consequences of another

'I trust the right thing will be done'

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

WITH HIS impeachment trial only hours away, President Bill Clinton broke his public silence on the matter yesterday to say that he trusted the Senate to do "the right thing" and would continue to concentrate on his job as President.

Demonstrating yet again his famed capacity to "compartmentalise", Mr Clinton told reporters: "The important thing for me is to try to spend as little time thinking about that as possible ... I trust the right thing will be done and I think that meanwhile I need to work on the business of the people."

Mr Clinton's agreement to respond to reporters' questions at the start of a White House meeting with trade union leaders was seen as a small concession by the White House after an explosion of correspondents' anger the previous day about the President's general unavailability to the media. The level of access to the President has been sharply curbed since allegations about Monica Lewinsky surfaced one year ago.

Even as Mr Clinton was speaking, the White House lawyers who are spearheading his defence and the 13 "managers" from the House of Representatives who are co-ordinating the "prosecution" were completing final preparations for the trial. Proceedings in what will be only the second presidential impeachment trial, and the first this century, start in earnest at 1pm today, with opening statements from both sides.

The President's lawyers yesterday followed up Monday's delivery of their 13-page defence brief with the dispatch to the Senate of a 120-page summary of their arguments.



Linda Tripp (below): Her tape recordings revealed Bill Clinton's affair



The summary also made the point - one heard repeatedly from Democrats in the House of Representatives during last year's impeachment hearings and subsequent debate - that the proceedings were politically inspired and unfair. And it proceeded to argue a wider point of principle, that convicting the President would irreversibly upset the balance of the US political system.

"Removing the President on these facts," it said, "would substantially alter the delicate constitutional balance, and move us closer to a quasi-parliamentary system, in which the President is elected to office by the choice of the people, but continues in office only at the pleasure of Congress."

The document also said that the White House lawyers would have "an urgent need" to seek additional evidence if the prosecutors tried to introduce material beyond what had already been collected and published in the report by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, and its accompanying documents.

The White House is adamantly opposed to any extension of the trial to cover other relationships that the President may have had with employees. It also objects to the Senate calling "live" witnesses, insisting that the testimony collected by Mr Starr is sufficient. Many Republican senators, however, say they want to be able to question some of the key players, including Monica Lewinsky herself and the President's private secretary, Betty Currie.

Yesterday marked exactly a year since Mr Starr opened his investigation into the Lewinsky affair on the basis of recordings supplied to his office by Ms Lewinsky's one-time confidante, Linda Tripp.

The White House, where lawyers are planning the President's defence. Reuters



UN considers French plan to lift oil embargo on Iraq

By DAVID USBORNE
in New York

THE FIRST glimpse of a possible break in the diplomatic log-jam over future United Nations policy on Iraq surfaced yesterday when the French government stepped forward with a controversial proposal to lift the eight-year oil embargo on the country and to create a scaled-down regime of weapons inspections.

As the Security Council was preparing last night to study the three-point proposal, there were tentative indications that Britain, customarily allied with the United States in opposing any dilution of UN measures on Iraq, may be willing to consider it as a way of bridging divisions on future Iraq policy. This could leave Washington isolated at the UN.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one British official said London was not yet in a position to consider the lifting of the oil embargo. He went on to concede, however, that some trade-off may be possible in the

diplomatic moves coincided with fresh military activity yesterday over the northern Iraq no-fly zone. The Pentagon confirmed that US warplanes had fired on Iraqi anti-aircraft missile sites in the region. It was the third such incident this week. The no-fly zones are patrolled by both American and British jets.

"There are indications that coalition aircraft were fired upon at least once by at least one Iraqi surface-to-air missile," a spokesman said. "The coalition air crews acted in self-defence." He said all coalition planes returned safely and denied Iraqi claims that its forces had "hit" one "enemy" plane. Under UN policy, Iraq is allowed to export a limited volume of oil. The revenue from the exports is under strict UN control and can only be spent on importing foods and medicines. It is unclear whether

Leading article,
Review, page 3

France, which has long had an eye on helping Iraq to revive its oil industry, envisages maintaining such controls if the embargo itself is lifted.

More vexing is the issue of how controls on Iraq's suspected weapons programmes could be maintained without the return of the Unscor inspectors, the special UN commission charged with hunting down Iraq's armaments. Clearly suggesting that Unscor itself should be shelved, Paris said it envisaged a new inspection team "under a reformed commission, in order to guarantee its independence and reinforce its professionalism". This appeared to be a swipe at Richard Butler, the Unscor chief, who has recently denied allegations that his inspectors had become infiltrated by American spies.

France thinks that it is time for the Security Council to consider that no progress can be made by an illusory resumption of previous methods," it said.

Daniel Vaillant, Minister for Parliamentary Relations, added: "France is proposing something that will allow us to get out of the current impasse."

IN BRIEF

Iran-British relationship warms

IRAN AND Britain are expected to upgrade their diplomatic ties to ambassadorial levels soon, after years of tension over the Salman Rushdie affair, an Iranian newspaper reported yesterday. It said the two countries had decided to appoint their current chargés d'affaires as ambassadors.

Bosnia war crimes suspect buried

THOUSANDS OF people yesterday attended the funeral of a Bosnian Serb war-crimes suspect. Dragan Gagovic was sought by the UN war crimes tribunal for raping and torturing Muslim women in 1992 and 1993, but was killed by French Nato soldiers as they tried to arrest him.

Editor held over report of 'coup'

A ZIMBABWEAN editor spent his second day detained by military police yesterday after his newspaper reported on the arrest of 23 soldiers for plotting a coup. The government has denied the report in the *Standard* newspaper which is edited by Mark Chavunda, 34.

Security agency bans a Furby

THE AMERICAN National Security Agency has banned a Furby, a toy resembling an owl with tufts of hair and huge pink ears from its Fort Meade premises in Maryland. It is considered a threat to national security because it contains a computer chip that allows it to record sounds.

Whodunit wife denies murder

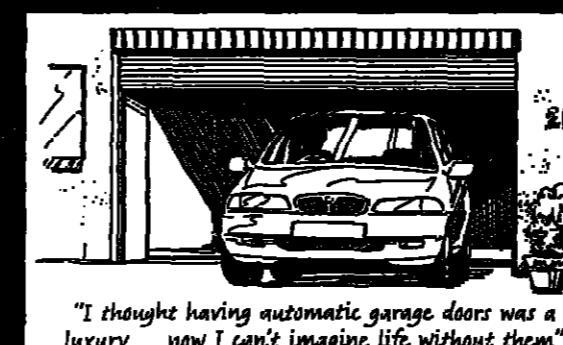
By DAVID USBORNE

ROBERT DEAN, the prosecutor, told the jury that the couple had been having long-running marital difficulties and that Mrs Hricko stood to collect \$200,000 (£136,000) in life assurance on her husband's death.

This is the strange scenario at the heart of a murder trial in Easton, Maryland, on the shore of Chesapeake Bay. Prosecutors contend that on 14 February last year, Kimberly Hricko, 32, returned to her room after the play with her husband, Stephen, and murdered him.

Documents filed by the police say that Mrs Hricko had told friends that she wanted to kill her husband. She is alleged to have described how she would administer poison to paralyse him and then set fire to the room.

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Nigerians drive rebels from Freetown

THE REBEL army that invaded Freetown has been driven into the hills surrounding the Sierra Leone capital, according to the commander of the West African intervention force.

"The operation is almost complete," Cdr Timothy Shelpidi said yesterday in his first briefing on the military position since the rebels launched their attack on Freetown on 6 January. He said there were a few

BY ALLIEU IBRAHIM
KAMARA in Freetown
AND ALEX DUVAL SMITH

rebels hiding in the shanty towns around the Kusa area, in the east of the city, but he described these as isolated pockets.

Cdr Shelpidi said the intervention force, Ecomog, had suffered only light casualties, while rebel casualties numbered over 1,000 - but the in-

vaders had caused "colossal" damage to parts of Freetown.

As the fighting died down, Sierra Leone's rebels - widely seen as ruthless and with scant popular support - moved a step nearer to political legitimacy when their leader offered a ceasefire in return for his freedom.

The Sierra Leone president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, who is being guarded by Nigerian

troops, was due to hear today the conditions of the rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, through a United Nations intermediary. Mr Sankoh is being held in Conakry, capital of neighbouring Guinea.

It was not clear whether formal talks were being proposed by either party to end the civil war. But a senior UN representative suggested yesterday that President Kabbah was un-

likely to agree to Mr Sankoh's demand. Mr Sankoh, founder of the Revolutionary United Front, made the demand at talks in Conakry on Tuesday after being flown to Guinea from Freetown where he was being held in jail after his conviction for high treason and murder last October.

In Freetown yesterday, where sporadic gunfire was heard as Ecomog carried out house-to-house searches in the east of the city, two Roman Catholic missionaries were released from captivity.

Ecomog said Maurizio Boa and Giuliano Pini had been used by the rebels as human shields during fighting on Monday. A Vatican spokesman said Ecomog soldiers initially assaulted the Italian priests, believing them to be European mercenaries fighting alongside

the rebels. A third Italian priest, Mario Guerra, was still being held by the rebels.

The UN official said that, besides his freedom, Mr Sankoh had asked for official recognition of the RUF, which has been accused by aid officials and civilians of atrocities against unarmed villagers.

Witnesses who fled eastern Freetown said the rebels had killed scores of civilians and

taken many hostages - including women and children - during their retreat from the city.

The UN refugee agency warned again yesterday of a possible humanitarian disaster in Freetown because hundreds of thousands of people have been trapped in their homes without water and unable to go outside to get food.

Leading article,
Review, page 3

Judge shifts goalposts in Anwar trial

A MALAYSIAN judge amended four corruption charges against the country's ousted finance minister Anwar Ibrahim yesterday, prompting the former cabinet member to protest he had been unfairly smeared by sex allegations.

"They already stripped me naked. Now they are amending the charges," a fuming Mr Anwar said during a break in his sex and corruption trial, which is now in its 10th week.

Mr Anwar was sacked and arrested in September, and later indicted on five counts each of corruption and sodomy. He has pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

Prosecutors said their amendments involved only changes in the wording and did not alter the thrust of the corruption charges under initial examination at the High Court.

But the defence team said they narrowed the focus of the charge after the prosecution had spent over two months producing sordid testimony. Mr Anwar's chief counsel, Raja Aziz Rajah Addrusie, said the prosecutors were now trying to avoid proving the allegations of sexual misconduct and sodomy. "They are seeking to procure a

lower onus of proof," he said.

Legal experts said the prosecution was entitled to the move, but questioned its timing and motive. "The prosecution has the right to amend charges whenever it wishes, but many people are wondering why they have done so at this stage," an independent lawyer said.

Others asked why government lawyers had shamed Mr Anwar with lurid testimony if they had no intention of proving it. "I don't know whether it was more for public consumption," said R. R. Chevarajah, vice-president of the Malaysian Bar Council.

High Court Judge Augustine Paul, who is both judge and jury in the trial at the centre of the current political turbulence in Malaysia, sided with the prosecution. "I'm of the view that it's no real substantive change," the judge said.

Mr Anwar's defence team countered later in the day, announcing that they planned to call the Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, and three other cabinet ministers as witnesses in the trial. (Reuters)



Anwar Ibrahim's wife and daughter joining protesters outside the court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday **Reuters**

River deaths force action against graft

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

complaints about poor construction had risen 50 per cent since 1997.

In another case, a highway in Yunnan province was closed days after opening because of subsidence caused by shoddy construction material.

As ever in China, corruption is often the cause of such problems. Corrupt companies and officials agree to cut corners and costs and pocket the money saved. Cadres can be bribed into giving safety and completion certificates, despite the sub-standard work.

But this latest disaster, whose victims included 18 soldiers out for a jog, appears to have alerted the government to the problems.

The accident happened on 4 January in Qijiang county, on the outskirts of the western city of Chongqing.

Yesterday the *China Daily*

said four people had been detained in an investigation and two removed from their jobs. Structural problems, sub-standard reinforced concrete and poor maintenance were the main causes of the collapse.

Mr Yu said the number of

of more than 40,000 people investigated in the cases, 1,820 were government officials ranking above the county level and 7,063 were judicial and administrative officials, said Han Zhubin, the head of the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

ANOTHER PRICE CUT BY BRITISH GAS

israel
lection
urgla
canda

AT'S SIX

town

Israel election burglary scandal

deaths
action
t graft

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

THE THEFT of confidential papers and computer disks from the Washington office of a US political consultant advising Ehud Barak, the leader of the Israeli Labour party, is injecting fresh venom into the Israeli election campaign.

The burglars entered the office of Stanley Greenberg, a prominent Democratic pollster, through an air vent and then cut a hole through the ceiling. Tal Silberstein, Mr Barak's campaign manager, said the thieves "knew exactly what they wanted because the only file taken was one dealing with the Israeli campaign".

The Israeli press yesterday compared the theft to the Watergate burglary of 1974 when a break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters orchestrated from the White House ultimately led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

The run-up to the Israeli election, which takes place on 17 May, is particularly rancorous because the two leading candidates, Mr Barak and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, are competing against former colleagues.

Sergeant Joe Gentile, of the District of Columbia police, confirmed that the robbers entered the offices of Greenberg Quinlan Research late on Monday night or early Tuesday and stole confidential files. He said the police and the FBI were investigating the possibility that "certain documents were targeted".

Several members of the Labour party were quick to suggest that Mr Netanyahu's Likud party was behind the

burglary, although Aliza Goren, Mr Barak's spokeswoman, said: "We cannot point to any guilty party and certainly have no idea who did this." Likud said it hoped the thieves would be caught.

Both Labour and Likud have hired American political consultants for the coming campaign. In the 1996 election Mr Netanyahu's victory was partly credited to Arthur Finkelstein, a right-wing American consultant, who advised him on tactics and strategy. Mr Greenberg has in the past played a leading role in advising President Bill Clinton.

The Labour party milked the incident for all it was worth yesterday, but was nervous of giving the impression that its political policies were being decided in the US. It said all important decisions on the election were made in Israel.

Mr Barak's campaign is already floundering because of the emergence of centrist candidates, such as the former chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who are convinced the Labour leader cannot beat Mr Netanyahu. Mr Barak also faced a fresh row at the Labour party convention yesterday because he wants to put his own allies high up on the Labour list for the Knesset elections. That would force a number of party veterans out of politics.

Hagai Meiron, a Labour Knesset member, left the party earlier in the week because he was "not built to serve in the court of a one-man ruler".

A Russian soldier at the Ruci bridge between Abkhazia and Georgia. Many believe Abkhazian separatists were provoked by factions within Russia

Scott McNe

Deadly harvest in an agricultural paradise

FRONTLINE

ABKHAZIA

"I HAVE nothing left, I have no money and my belongings are burnt; but I can't live here like this; I must go back and if they kill me, they kill me." Zisa Dari is one of the 40,000 refugees driven out of Gali by the separatist

Georgian province of Abkhazia by a new sweep of ethnic cleansing last May. Like many, she has moved only a few kilometres over the border to Zugdidi, the other side of the Inguri river, from where she watched the plumes of black smoke that marked the destruction of the Gali villages by the Abkhaz militia. Zisa and her family have decided to take the risk.

"In June my husband went back to our village. On his return he was taken by the Abkhaz and beaten and tortured.

ethnic Georgians from the province in favour of the minority Abkhaz. Georgia already supports more than 300,000 displaced Georgians who fled during the civil war of 1992-93.

Abkhazia was known as the garden of Russia. For the refugees in Zugdidi, most of them farmers, the decision to risk crossing back over the border to gather crops is a simple choice between extreme hardship and possible death at the hands of the Abkhaz militia. Zisa and her family have decided to take the risk.

Despite the dangers there is still a steady movement to and fro, usually undertaken by the older female family members who are considered least at risk from the partisan groups roaming the region. Many of the older residents, like Zisa, say they prefer to risk death in returning to what remains of

their villages than end their days crammed 13 to a room in a freezing schoolhouse.

Mine explosions are still a daily occurrence, and cross-border shooting has taken place as recently as the past month. Last September, Ardzinba requested a meeting with the Georgian President, Edward Shevardnadze, amid fears that renewed hostilities would break out. The talks have yet to materialise.

News of the planned meeting has not been well received. The shooting of three United Nations observers in Sukhumi

on 21 September was regarded by many as a direct attempt to undermine the negotiations. Tama Nadareishvili, chairman of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia in exile, supports Mr Shevardnadze's efforts in theory, but no longer feels that anything can be achieved by peaceful negotiation. "Some 300,000 people are homeless and have waited five years to return. We have no hope that politically this will be possible without war."

Mr Nadareishvili supports the popular belief that the Abkhazian separatists were strongly provoked and supported by certain factions within Russia who still oppose Georgian independence. How else, he argues, could the ethnic Abkhaz, numbering only 30,000, have overthrown the majority Georgian population? While this view is shared by Zurab Zhvania, chairman of the Georgian parliament, he is swift to point out that the last thing Georgia needs is a deterioration in relations with their powerful next door neighbour.

"We are extremely interested in a well-balanced, very close, economic and cultural relationship with Russia. We don't want anybody in Russia to think that we will present any threat. But we demand equal relations, and that small countries have the right to enjoy their independence."

HERIE JUDAH

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

IPC restructure to cut 200 staff

IPC, THE MAGAZINE publisher behind titles such as *Loudon and Country Life*, yesterday announced plans to cut about 200 staff and restructure its business into five divisions. The changes are designed to cut annual costs by about £6m. The cuts will raise fears that IPC has not been performing as well as expected since it was bought by a management team, backed by the venture capital group Cirven, for £88m twelve months ago.

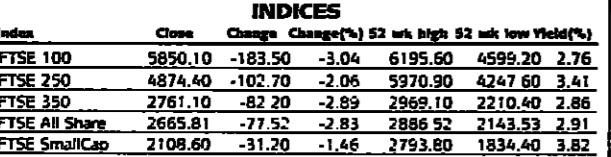
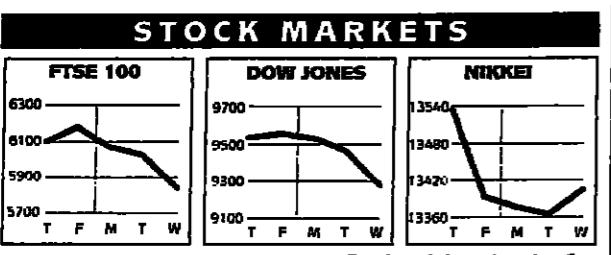
Investors back BTR-Siebe merger

ALLEN YURKO

THE £88m merger between the engineering groups Siebe and BTR was approved overwhelmingly by shareholders in both companies yesterday. Despite suggestions of a revolt by institutional investors over the terms of the all-paper deal, Siebe shareholders voted 99 per cent in favour while BTR shareholders backed the merger by a similar crushing majority. The enlarged business, one of the biggest controls and automation groups in the world, will be run by Siebe's chief executive Allen Yurko (pictured). Siebe shareholders will own 55 per cent of the company and BTR shareholders 45 per cent.

Carpetbagger drops out

STEPHEN MAJOR, the plumber from Lisburn, Northern Ireland who tabled a proposal for Bradford & Bingley to convert to a bank, yesterday dropped out of elections to the society's board. Mr Major said he had never wanted to be a director and was bowing out to avoid mud-slinging from the media. But he said he would still campaign for the society to convert. Bradford & Bingley's 2.5 million members are due to vote on his proposal, for the society to take steps towards conversion, at an annual general meeting on 26 April.



Brazil's day of reckoning comes despite the bailout

News Analysis:
The \$4bn rescue package from the IMF was just putting off the inevitable

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

THERE IS no more sure sign of an impending crisis than capital flight. Ever since it reached agreement two months ago on a \$4bn rescue package led by the International Monetary Fund, Brazil has been bidding goodbye to billions of dollars fleeing to safer havens overseas.

In December, it was more than \$5bn. Up to Tuesday about \$1bn had left in January with another \$1.2bn on Tuesday itself. Altogether, the total capital flight in recent months has passed the \$50bn mark.

No wonder Professor Rudiger Dornbusch at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has joked that the IMF's new telephone number is 1-800-BALLOUT. Yesterday's devaluation, resignation of the central bank governor and financial market implosion in Brazil confirmed the worst fears of the Fund's critics. Its rescue package, pumping in taxpayers' funds, had given investors enough time to get their money out of Brazil before what many saw as an inevitable speculative attack on the currency.

The emergency loan, of which the UK's share amounts to \$1bn, was due to be doled out to the Brazilian government in tranches subject to it satisfying the terms of an IMF adjustment programme. The second instalment is due to be handed over next month.

The loans were intended to tide the country over its repayments on international loans, mostly short-term, of which \$60bn will come due during 1999. In effect, the IMF would ensure that commercial banks and other investors in Brazil got paid on old loans so that they would continue to make new loans.

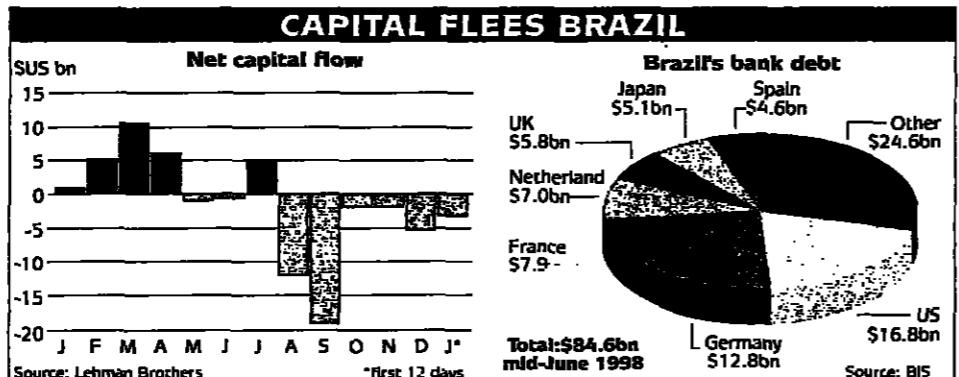
The plan was controversial, with little support among the governments of the G7 leading economies. Some, including France and Germany, were bitterly opposed. They argued that it created more "moral hazard", whereby banks would continue to make too many risky loans on the assumption the authorities would always bail them out.

The decision to fix the Brazilian



Gustavo Franco (left) who quit as Brazil's central bank president, and Francisco Lopes, the deputy who replaces him, at a press conference yesterday. Brazil may now be forced to renegotiate foreign debts

AFP/Reuters



Source: Lehman Brothers

1st 12 days

Total: \$84.6bn mid-June 1998

Source: BIS

flight, it is too late for the country to escape a severe shortage of funds. Service on its debts this year will amount to nearly three-quarters of its export earnings, themselves under threat from low commodity prices. Interest rates will have to remain high, plunging the economy into a deep recession.

Professor Dornbusch, who predicted back in November that the agreement with the IMF would merely postpone the crisis, recommends a currency board for Brazil. Guaranteeing a fixed exchange rate against the dollar through this mechanism - which would tie every real in circulation to reserves of the US currency - is the only credible exchange rate policy left, in his view. The government must also balance its budget and start a root-and-branch reform of the economy, which duly market shares up.

During the 1990s, however, it was US industry that carried out the great restructuring. There were several aspects to this: takeovers and mergers, downsizing of workforces, a surge in investment, particularly in information technology. This has improved performance, which again has been reflected in share prices.

Others reckon that the government and international authorities will be reluctant to take this route, and will instead try to shore up the credibility of the existing package. Anna Gavorszki of Lloyds Bank said: "I think everything possible would be done to avoid a renegotiation of external debt."

To clear the way for an overhaul of the foreign exchange regime, Brazil's central bank president, Gustavo Franco, quit yesterday and was replaced by one of his deputies.

Although Brazil might be tempted to introduce tough capital controls to prevent further

per cent fall in 1999, and other forecasters are more pessimistic. For example, HSBC was predicting a 2.1 per cent drop before yesterday's crisis.

According to David Lubin, HSBC's Latin American economist, now that the IMF loan and fiscal adjustment have failed, the only alternative is a devaluation and renegotiation of Brazil's foreign debts. "There is no alternative now to making private lenders share some of the pain," he said.

If things look bleak for Brazil after yesterday's events, the broader outlook is little brighter. International efforts to prevent financial crises failed in Asia, failed in Russia and have now failed in Latin America too. The IMF is sure to come under renewed criticism over its crisis-management.

And even if leading stock markets bounce back once again in weeks to come, the already disrupted flow of capital to emerging economies could dry up entirely. The flow of investment fell to a meagre \$6/bn in 1998, compared with a peak of \$250bn. For Brazil, the danger that its creditors will refuse new loans could force it to default - an event that would ratchet up the two-year international financial crisis another notch.

Combined with interest rates of around 30 per cent, the plan certainly set Brazil on course for a recession this year. The IMF downgraded its forecast from 2 per cent growth in GDP to a 1

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Banks mauled as Brazil spooks FTSE

EQUITIES SUFFERED one of their worst poundings as Brazil's currency crisis hit the stock market.

What amounted to a devaluation caused widespread concern around the world, and Footsie was in a ragged retreat from the opening. At one time it was off 237.1 points, but in busy two-way trading the index managed to reduce its deficit to 183.5 points, closing at 5,850.1.

The index began the year at 5,566.1. Its best close last week was 6,148.8, although it hit a new trading high of 6,195.6.

Despite the slump there were indications that institutional investors, who seemed happy to chase shares in a mad scramble last week, had not completely faded from the scene. The late rally stemmed from determined buying at the knockdown prices produced by the earlier panic.

Not only blue chips were in the firing line: the mid cap index crashed 102.7 points to 4,874.4 and the small cap 31.2 to 2,108.6. Both finished well above their lows. Government stocks rose by up to 75p.

Trading was again heavy, with share turnover topping 1.1 billion.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

BPP, following a share buyback at 180p, was the most traded stock with turnover put at 43.5 million. The shares fell 8.75p to 183p.

Banks suffered the severest mauling as the market fretted over their exposure to Latin America, and those with long memories recalled the crashing impact of past regional defaults. Standard Chartered lost 84p (after 96p) to 742p and National Westminster Bank 105p (after 128p) to 1,068p.

HSBC was off 125p to 1,628p and Lloyds TSB 43p to 821.5p. The

gloom encompassed other financials, with insurer Royal & Sun Alliance 39p down at 483p and Prudential down 55p to 899p.

In such an unfriendly environment, the high flying telecom shares were also sounding the retreat, with Vodafone 35p down at 1,039.5p and Energis 31p at 1,380p. But high flying Colt Telecom, seen by all as particularly vulnerable to any darkening climate, restricted its fall to 19p to 1,018p.

Dixons resisted the slump, gaining 4p to 958p, a peak as its results were in line with best expectations. Whitbread, with a moderately cheerful trading statement, put on 5p to 775p. But Allied Domexco continued to suffer from its sober Christmas trading message, falling a further 19p to 487p. The allied gloom again unsettled Bass, off 14.5p to 765.5p, and Scottish & Newcastle, 28.5p to 684.5p.

Zeneca, the drugs group was ruffed by stories that it would be partner Astra of Sweden, could be snatched away. Roche, the big Swiss pharmaceutical group, was said to be on the verge of mounting a bid for Astra, a development

that would leave Zeneca standing alone and forlorn at the altar. The shares fell 71p to 2,673p.

Sears, on the sale of its credit card business, gained 25p to 310.5p. Retail entrepreneur Philip Green

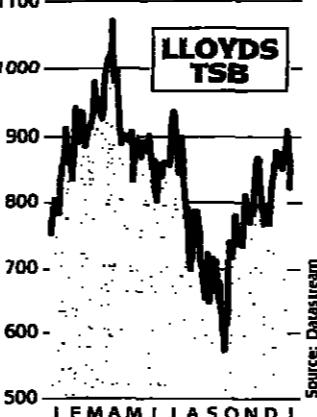
ON-LINE, an obscure little computer games business, says it is not involved in any corporate talk, but even so it is comfortably leading the 1999 stock market race.

The shares climbed a further 12p to 57.5p as against 16.5p on Monday. Two directors, chairman Michael Hodges (£50,000) and Clem Chambers (£100,000), have each "reluctantly" sold shares to improve liquidity. Two years ago the price topped 100p.

still hovers: he has bid 340p a share although he has not won the backing of the Sears board. WH Smith, said to be expanding its Internet retailing, was 20.5p higher at 63.5p.

Encouraging trading statements helped Selfridges 6.5p better to

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Lloyds TSB
Source: Datastream

21.5p to 69.5p. Caution from software group Pegasus lowered the shares 37.5p to 282.5p.

It was ironic that on such a fraught day the *Guardian Royal Exchange* takeover story was

TAKEOVER rumours swirled on the undercard, with T Clarke, a construction group, and Zotefoams, a chemical company, in the firing line. Clarke rose 14p to 112.5p and Zotefoams 10.5p to 90p. Both shares are well below their best levels.

The rumoured predators were said to be in play: Clarke, it was claimed, was in the sights of a continental group, while Zotefoams had attracted an American suitor.

213.5p. Limelight 3p to 33.5p and education group Nord Anglia 14p to 142.5p. IT group Vesa was lifted 50p to 1,245.5p.

given another whirr. It had little impact on the shares, lifting them just 0.5p to 337.5p. It was suggested that AXA, the French group seen at the head of the bidding queue, was on the verge of launching a fundraising exercise to back a deal.

AXA was said to be raising £1bn, which could tie in with suggestions that it intends to focus on overseas, with the Pru taking on domestic operations. Talk has been that the bid price will be around 400p. GRE is said to have rejected a 360p shot.

Abbot, an oil services group, tumbled 24.5p to 141.5p in late trading as rumours circulated that its proposed merger with Norway's Prosafe group had been called off.

In busy trading AromaScene, the electronic "nose" group, edged forward 0.25p to 102.25p, its highest since a rescue rights issue was made last year. The revamped group, thought to be attracting institutional interest, reports results later this month. KS Biomedix rose 18p to 314.5p in a late response to progress on its osteoarthritis drug.

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, in a takeover tussle with Marston Thompson & Everards, did itself little good by reporting first-quarter sales below expectations: the shares fell 17.5p to 447.5p.

SEAG VOLUME: 1.13 billion
SEAG TRADES: 88,030
GILTS INDEX: 115.93 +0.31

Investment: If the IT group's directors are taking profits, should investors as well?

FI board shares £15m windfall

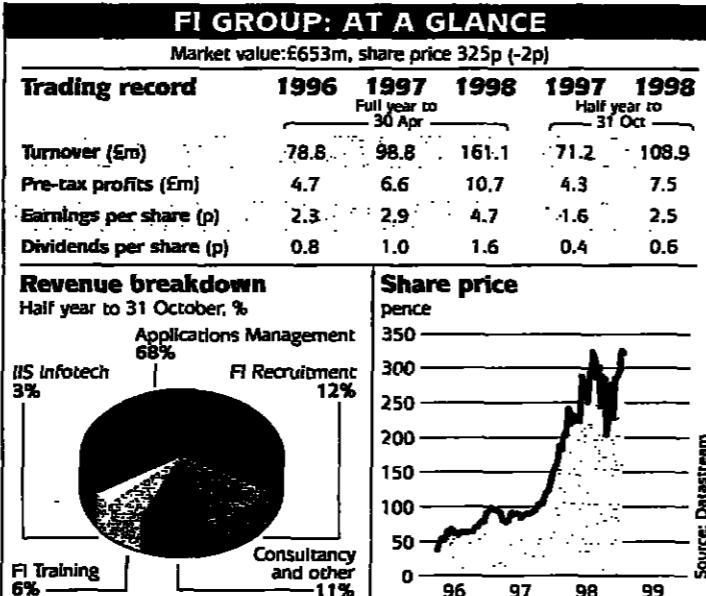
BY PETER THAL LARSEN

THE BOARD of FI Group yesterday shared a windfall of more than £15m when a group of directors took advantage of the computer services company's strong share price performance to offload 4.7 million shares.

Hilary Cropper, the chief executive who personally pocketed close to £2.5m from the sale, defended the decision. "Some of us have a lot of our wealth tied up in that business," she said, adding that the directors still had a combined 6.5 per cent stake. They have also agreed not to sell any more shares for 12 months.

The sight of directors selling large chunks of stock did not rattle investors, who scrambled to snap them up. It is understood that it took Warburg Dillon Read, FI's broker, just five minutes to place the shares with institutional investors.

Nevertheless, investors might reasonably ask whether they too should be taking profits in FI. The company has been one of the best-performing information technology stocks on the London exchange, doubling in value last year. It is also among the most highly rated, trading on an eye-popping 63 times expected full-year earnings.



Hilary Cropper: 'No barriers to growth' in FI's markets

Not that FI is giving investors any cause for concern. Results for the six months to 31 October, released yesterday, showed pre-tax profits rising by 75 per cent to £7.5m on turnover up 53 per cent to £109m.

The results included a contribution from IIS Infotech, the Indian computer group FI bought at the end of 1997 and which is already bring-

up on FT's growth prospects. She believes that over time its largest customers - who account for 70 per cent of revenues - will entrust more of their IT spending to FI. Work on the millennium bug, which yields 15 per cent of revenues, will tail off, but it will be replaced by preparations for the introduction of the euro in the UK and for electronic commerce.

Meanwhile, Ms Cropper sounded

upheat on FI's growth prospects. She believes that over time its largest customers - who account for 70 per cent of revenues - will entrust more of their IT spending to FI. Work on the millennium bug, which yields 15 per cent of revenues, will tail off, but it will be replaced by preparations for the introduction of the euro in the UK and for electronic commerce.

With its long-term contracts and solid forward order book, analysts think that there is little chance of FI disappointing the market in the short term. However, few in the City are brave enough to raise the shares, down 2p yesterday at 325p, to a buy.

Limelight looks fit to rebound into profits

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

SHARES GOING up yesterday were few and far between but Limelight, the Manchester-based makers and retailers of fully-fitted kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and conservatories, managed a 3p rise to 33.5p.

The company, which trades under various names - Sharps, Maben, Dolphin and Kitchens Direct - issued a trading statement saying simply that trading remained tough in the final quarter of the year, but Limelight had performed in line with expectations in 1998 and the current year had begun reasonably well.

In the January sale period - traditionally the peak season - sales were 8 per cent up on last year; when many high-street retailers are feeling the pinch. However, the company insists it is still too early to take any firm position on the outlook for trading after January.

Some of the success is down to

increased advertising and promotion, but it is likely that falling mortgage rates are encouraging home owners to plough some of the money they save on mortgages back into home improvements.

Limelight's shares have not been

spectacular performers since they were floated at 183p three years ago,

and the path has generally been downward. But Andrew Stanway, who stepped up to the post of chief executive after a management shakeup, has succeeded in taking out costs and sold the loss-making Portland Windows.

Richard Ratner of brokers Seymour Pierce, now rates the shares a speculative buy. He forecasts a rebound from a £12m loss after re-structuring costs in 1997 to a profit of £8m and earnings of 5.6p a share last year, rising to £1m and 7.8p in 1999.

Mr Burke, the office clerk who got to the top

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE YORKSHIREMAN who steered Bristol & West out of its building society status and into the arms of Bank of Ireland two years ago is standing down as chief executive after 34 years with the same institution.

John Burke, 56, is one of a dying breed: a man who worked his way up from office clerk to boss of a financial institution with assets of over £13bn. Mr Burke says this career path is "sadly not likely to happen too often in the future".

Yesterday he said he was standing down as chief executive to become vice-chairman of Bristol & West. It's a long way from Mr Burke's first job, in the Plymouth office he joined in November 1964.

"There was a big gap in the office between the secretary at the back and the counter - they thought I was a big enough lad to fill it," he recalls.

When he became the society's youngest-ever branch manager at Truro, Cornwall, in 1968, the society had assets of just £40m. Mr Burke moved to head office in 1978 and got the top job in 1993, steering the society through dermatulation and subsequent sale to the Bank of Ireland four years later. He will be succeeded by Jeff Warren, finance director of Bristol & West since 1992.

Although widely acknowledged as a top quality coffee, the Jamaican variety has been difficult to buy in the UK until now, says the chain's managing director, Geoffrey Holland.

The shop at 18 Maddox Street in London's Mayfair features Jamaican culture and lifestyle.

Lord Simpson, chief executive of GEC, was cock-a-hoop yesterday that an employee of the defence company has won the Young Woman Engineer of the Year Award for the second year running.

Lord Simpson took time off from merger talks with a host of other defence companies to praise this year's winner, Kim Dennis, 26, information technology specialist skill group manager with Marconi Communications of Coventry. He said Ms Dennis and the other finalists "make wonderful role models for many youngsters who may not otherwise realise the superb and exciting career opportunities which are available to them in engineering."

Selfridges trading update brings some cheer to the high street

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

isfactory" and there is no problem with over-stocks.

Selfridges shares rose on relief that the group had not become another victim of the high street blues. But the figures do not quite represent the "turnaround" being claimed in some quarters yesterday.

A key factor in the sales growth was the re-opening in the autumn of the beauty hall, which is the reason perfume sales have been so fragrant. Selfridges' redevelopment programme will finish this year with the completion of the menswear department overhauls on the ground floor. After that, the figures will be truly like-for-like and comparisons may be a little more onerous.

John Richards at Alex Brown described Selfridges figures as "relatively reassuring" but pointed

out the boost from the new beauty hall. He also notes that underlying net asset value is 21.4p, compared with yesterday's close of 21.3p, up 6.5p on the day.

That might seem to offer support but a more significant factor is the near 7 per cent now held by the property group British Land. That has buoyed the share price as speculation persists that John Ribblett's group may mount a bid or push for a sale and leaseback of the Oxford Street site.

On BT Alex Brown's full year forecast of 12.1m the shares trade on a forward multiple of 20. Analysts say that on fundamental terms the stock is overvalued and that bid prospects are based more on hope than expectation.

There will be far worse trading statements that yesterday's update from Selfridges but that is no reason to chase the shares.

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OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar

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SPORT

Golf: As the game goes global, players increasingly want to match themselves against the world's elite

New look as tour rakes in big money

BY ANDY FARRELL

"At a time when the difference between being 30th in the world and 130th is smaller than it's ever been, we are looking at creating this élite group where the fields are limited," Turner added.

Each event, however, has specific qualification criteria allowing players to emerge from the European or other tours to work their way up the ladder. Much the most eagerly anticipated of the new events is the Andersen Consulting World Matchplay Championship, which will feature the world's top 64 in straight head-to-head action, a concept that has not existed since the USPGA went to strokeplay in 1958.

The qualification for the event has added an impetus to the start of the season. Nick Faldo (57th), Per-Ulrik Johansson (63rd), Robert Karlsson (67th) and Andrew Coltart (69th) are among those tried to make sure of a place at La Costa next month.

Due to poor results at the start of last season, Karlsson has been told he can improve his world ranking points average by sitting at home for the next six weeks. Whether it will be enough is another question and the Swede is not taking the chance.

Faldo is showing signs of trying to make the team on merit. The Ryder Cup will be played in September at the Country Club of Brookline, where Faldo lost the US Open in a play-off to Curtis Strange in 1988. "It is one of the great sporting events," Faldo said of the Ryder Cup. "You want to be there."

The 41-year-old six-times major winner is taking advantage of the absence of Colin Montgomerie (resting), Darren Clarke (fitness training) and Lee Westwood (honeymoon) by teeing up at Houghton today. "Step one is to get back to winning, step two is to get back to winning majors and if you are doing that you'll get in the Ryder Cup," he said.

Winning the World Cup with England and finishing fourth in the Australian Open has rekindled his enthusiasm. "I'm as keen as mustard. You hate being down where I am when you have been where I have been. But I just keep believing that after everything I've been through I'll be a better player than ever before. That's the scary thing for everyone else. My trump card now is experience."

With the European Order of Merit now including the US Open and USPGA as well as the three World Championship events, the chances of a player coming out of the pack, as Ronan Rafferty did in 1989, to win the title have decreased. Equally, it will now reflect performances by Europeans in the world's biggest tournaments. Expect another Montgomerie, Clarke, Westwood shoot out.

It was Greg Norman who sparked the tour from around the world to come together in unusual co-operation when he proposed a World Tour of elite events in 1994. Where Norman missed the point is that golf does not need any more 30-man events with no half-way cut to concentrate the mind. All that really needs to happen is for other events to follow the lead of the US Players' Championship in making sure the top 50 or more on the world rankings are among a full-field entry.

One of the new events falls into Norman's trap, the NEC World Invitational bringing together Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup players at Firestone, the home of the now defunct World Series. Greg Turner, the New Zealander, will play in the event because he was picked as a wild card for the International Presidents Cup team but does not believe he should be. "I'm in the tournament as a player ranked 70th in the world when others, who are more deserving, are missing out," he said.



Sweden's Per-Ulrik Johansson splashes out of a bunker during yesterday's Alfred Dunhill pro-am in Johannesburg. Allsport

EUROPEAN TOUR SCHEDULE			
JANUARY	APRIL	JULY	OCTOBER
14-17 Alfred Dunhill South African PGA, Houghton, Johannesburg	8-11 US MASTERS, Augusta, Georgia	1-4 Murphy's Irish Open, Druids Glen, County Wicklow	7-10 Alfred Dunhill Cup, St Andrews, Scotland
21-24 South African Open, Stellenbosch	22-25 Peugeot Spanish Open, venue tba	7-10 Standard Life Loch Lomond, Loch Lomond, Scotland	24-26 RYDER CUP, Brookline, Boston
28-31 Heleneken Classic, The Vines, Perth, Australia	29-2 May Fiat and Fila Italian Open, Circolo, Turin	15-18 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, Carnoustie, Scotland	30-3 Oct Linde German Masters, Gut Larchenhof, Cologne
FEBRUARY	MAY	AUGUST	
4-7 Benson and Hedges Malaysian Open, Kuala Lumpur	6-9 French Open, venue tba	5-8 Volvo Scandinavian Masters, Boras, Sweden	7-10 Alfred Dunhill Cup, St Andrews, Scotland
11-14 Dubai Desert Classic, Dubai Creek	13-16 Benson and Hedges International, The Oxfodshire	12-15 US PGA, Medinah, Chicago	14-17 Cisco World Match Play, Wentworth, Surrey
11-14 Qatar Masters, Doha, Qatar	21-24 Deutsche Bank-SAP Open TPC of Europe, St Leon Rot, Heidelberg	19-22 BMW International Open, Nord-Eichenried, Munich, Germany	18-21 Open Novotel Perrier, Golf du Medoc, Bordeaux, France
24-28 World Golf Championship Andersen Consulting Match Play, La Costa, California	28-31 Volvo PGA Championship, Wentworth, Surrey	26-29 World Golf Championship NEC International, Akron, Ohio	22-24 Belgian Open, Royal Zoute, Belgium
MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER
4-7 Portuguese Algarve Open, venue to be announced	3-6 English Open, tba	2-5 Canon European Masters, Crans-sur-Sierre, Switzerland	4-7 World Golf Championship Strokeplay, Valderrama, Spain
11-14 Turespala Masters, venue tba	10-13 German Open, Sporthaus Club, Berlin	11-14 Johnnie Walker Classic, venue tba	11-14 Johnnie Walker Classic, venue tba
18-21 Moroccan Open, Royal Agadir	17-20 US OPEN, Pinehurst, North Carolina	18-21 World Cup of Golf, Mines Resort, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	18-23 European Tour qualifying school finals, San Roque and Sotogrande, Spain
25-28 Madeira Island Open, Santo da Serra	24-27 Compaq European Grand Prix, De Vere Stately Hall, Northumberland		

THE CONTENDERS

ERNIE ELS



Has the busiest international schedule of any of the leading players and paid the penalty when he was struck down by a back injury last June. Consequently suffered a disappointing middle and end to what had started out as an outstanding season. Down to fifth in the world rankings but keen to challenge Tiger Woods for the No 1 spot and add to his two US Opens. Just married and will spend much of the summer at his new home at Wentworth.

LEE WESTWOOD



Another newly wed who is currently honeymooning in the Caribbean. Deserves the break after winning seven times last year and 10 times within 13 months. At No 8 on the world rankings has overtaken Colin Montgomerie as the leading British player and will want to end the Scot's six-year tenure in the European No 1 spot. But getting into contention in the majors will be his highest priority.

TIGER WOODS



Too many seconds and thirds last year and too few victories have rubbed away some of Woods' mystique as a phenomenon, but added credence to his belief that he is now consistently a better player. Masters and the Open—if he can beat Mark O'Meara—remain his best chances of adding to his solitary major but the new World Matchplay Championship should bring out his flair for one-on-one combat.

THE PRETENDERS

DARREN CLARKE



Has taken time to learn the winning habit but proved he has done so to brilliant effect by winning the Volvo Masters last November. Enjoying fatherhood, he has given up smoking and gone on a fitness drive in an attempt to convert more of his near-misses as at the Open at Royal Troon in '97. Feels 66-1 is far off the mark for his chances at Augusta after finishing eighth on his debut in the Masters last year.

DAVID DUVAL



The Westwood of the US tour, on which he has already claimed the season-opening Mercedes Championship by nine strokes to record his eighth win since October 1997. But just as he struggled to break through, has yet to prove himself in the majors. Led the Masters briefly with three holes to play last April but overtaken by O'Meara's late charge.

JESPER PARNEVIK



Under that cap with the upturned peak and in between munching volcanic sand hides a ball striker of rare quality honed on the testing fairways of the US Tour over the last few seasons. Will split his schedule on both sides of the Atlantic after rejoining the European Tour, a requirement for him to make the Ryder Cup team. Three chances to win the Open in the last five years have only convinced him he can become the first Swede to win a major championship.

The curse of irresponsible expectation

AT THE risk of upsetting some in this dubious trade it is proposed that all sports reporters, including those who broadcast by television and radio, undertake the revolutionary experiment of discreet appraisal.

To be sure, this might startle and confuse the clientele, yet 1999 would be a better and brighter year if we could get through it without being imprudently advised that genius is upon us.

If we could start by setting promise in perspective, there might come a day when emerging talent is not put at risk by descriptions that twitch and quiver with irresponsible expectation.

While it is idle to suppose that any teenager who is quickly successful in sport can avoid the sort of



KEN JONES

the BBC pundit and former Liverpool defender Mark Lawrenson stated that Owen, at 19 years old, is already a phenomenon of football.

There is some truth in that, but unfortunately it may lead the public to consider Owen complete in football education when, in fact, he still has things to master.

As for Rose, it was not so much that the roof caved in on him after outscoring many of the world's best golfers at Birkdale as that he did not live up to quite ridiculous media anticipation. Comparisons between Rose and a true phenomenon of golf, Tiger Woods, were as daft as some made between Owen and Pele, who was only 17 when he appeared for Brazil against Sweden in the 1958 World Cup final.

attention given to Michael Owen in last summer's World Cup finals and Justin Rose in the Open golf championship, it can lead to difficulties in development that genius is upon us.

If we could start by setting promise in perspective, there might come a day when emerging talent is not put at risk by descriptions that twitch and quiver with irresponsible expectation.

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A great deal of attention was given last week to Jermaine Pennant, the 15-year-old prodigy who is registered with Arsenal after being brought up in the game by Notts County.

There are some important side issues involved here—Notts County's agreement with Arsenal cannot conceal their disappointment—but there is risk in Arsenal's investment.

Nobody can ever be sure whether young players will live up to their potential. I do not know exactly what the figures are, but the majority of apprentices in English football fail to make it as fully fledged professionals.

Only people who look upon an interest in football as evidence of retarded development will be

oblivious to the notion that a huge future in the game is being predicted for Wes Ham's 17-year-old midfielder Joe Cole, who made his first-team debut as a substitute in the third round of the FA Cup against Swansea City.

Cole is just one of an emerging generation who promise much for the future of English football. Improved coaching gives them a better chance than the many who fell by the wayside after representing England at youth international level.

The trouble is that media attention may be detrimental to their progress. Few will be blessed with Owen's temperament and the solid family background from which he benefits. Some will disappear from

view, either because of injury or failed personality.

I was mentioning this the other day to someone who gave up foot-ball management when the pressure to achieve became too great for him. "I think the worst thing about the job was telling youngsters that they weren't going to make it," he said.

"Most of them took it well but the parents were a different matter. I remember mothers in my office pleading

for their sons to be kept on."

In their eagerness to publicise the announcement of sporting youth, some people descend into a twilight of reason and language. Gustav Sebes, who put together the great Hungarian side of the 1950s, once spoke about his belief that a 15-year-old Ferenc Puskas

would rise above others in his generation and become one of the great figures in football history.

The interesting thing about this was that others were considered ahead of Puskas in natural ability. "But none of them had his nerve," Sebes said. "On the worst day in his life he would never drop below a high standard. At that age Puskas's consistency was remarkable and, of course, he lived up to all the hopes that were held out for him."

We shall have to wait and see whether something similar will be said about those who are presently causing a great deal of excitement in English football. It would help if people who report their efforts do so with more circumspection than is at present evident.

Jordan re-enjoy fam

The 1997 World Cup was a disaster for England, but the 1998 tournament was a success. In the final, England beat Brazil 2-1 to win the trophy. The team included many young players, such as Jermaine Pennant and Joe Cole, who were highly regarded at the time. The victory was a significant achievement for the English national team and helped to boost morale. The team's performance in the tournament was widely praised, particularly their resilience and determination in the face of challenges. The victory also provided a sense of pride and accomplishment for the nation. The team's success was attributed to a combination of factors, including hard work, teamwork, and a strong desire to succeed. The victory was a source of inspiration for many people in the country, and it helped to strengthen the bond between the team and the fans. The team's success was also seen as a positive development for English football, as it demonstrated that the country's young talent could compete at the highest level. The victory was a significant achievement for the English national team and helped to boost morale. The team's performance in the tournament was widely praised, particularly their resilience and determination in the face of challenges. The victory was a source of inspiration for many people in the country, and it helped to strengthen the bond between the team and the fans. The team's success was also seen as a positive development for English football, as it demonstrated that the country's young talent could compete at the highest level.

Cricket: England's World Cup hopes rest heavily on cavalier opener whose brief is simply to hit the cover off the ball

Knight takes one-day life on the run

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY
in Melbourne

ONE OF the most thrilling and outrageous sights in English cricket is that of Nick Knight running up the pitch and hitting fast bowlers straight back over their heads. It is a shot which defies all known conventions and contradicts the misguided impression of some Australian pundits that England have given the game nothing since inventing it.

While it is no more than an extension to the Sri Lankans' introduction of pinch-hitting to the one-day game, it embodies England's revitalised approach. It is currently being exhibited to joyous if mixed effect in Australia, where Knight is opening the batting in the one-day series. It serves at least two purposes apart from its potential of adding big runs at the beginning of the innings: it shows England's willingness to improvise in attack and it gets right up the opposition's pipe.

"Actually I find it easier to hit the ball when I'm on the run," says Knight. "It's not exactly a fine judgement, I do it to unsettle the bowler to make him think more because he doesn't know when I'll be coming and then try to hit it straight as I can while covering my stumps."

I started it when the 15-over fielding rule came in two or three years ago. Only two men are outside the circle, so there are gaps, and it's another attacking stroke. The bowler won't know what's coming next."

The shot, which perhaps should be called the Knight Flight given its protagonist's rapid departure from the crease and the likely trajectory of the ball, is but a part, albeit a significant one, of Knight's scintillating dodges.

He also has an exciting sweep slog which is aimed at cow corner and should warm the soul of village cricketers everywhere, and he is lighting between the wickets. Those attributes, not to mention his supreme fielding in any posi-

tion, have made him indispensable to England's one-day team, the platform of the innings.

This very week his coach, David Lloyd, was asked what Knight meant to the side and liked his absence to that of Steve Waugh from Australia or Aravinda De Silva from Sri Lanka. It weakens you, but also lifts your opponents. Knight is not indispensable, but he is integral to England's intention of plundering runs in the early part of their innings.

His recent record is astonishing for the regularity with which he does exactly the job he is paid for. Only twice in the past 20 matches has he been out to the new ball, and while his three one-day centuries hardly set him apart, he scored two of them on successive days against Pakistan four years ago, he sets the momentum of the side.

"I'm fairly philosophical about it. Sometimes it comes off, sometimes it doesn't. But it isn't necessarily restricted to 15 overs either. Quite often the fielding team keep men in so you're provided with 18 overs.

"The way I play in one-day cricket is purely manufactured.

I wanted to come up with something that had a chance of working, but it's only because it fits into my role in the side.

If I was going in at five I wouldn't play like that."

Knight exemplifies the evolution of the team being nurtured for the World Cup. Each member, it is said, has been given a clearly defined role and Knight's is to whack the cover off the ball any way he thinks fit. It is slightly worrying for him that all this one-day cavalier stuff might have damaged his chances in Test cricket.

After first playing in 1995 and making a maiden century he has fallen back in the selectorial pecking order. Although

mer Essex opener Gordon Barker, who probably did not teach him the sweep slog but passed on much else. The pair still keep in touch, and Barker was there when Knight was married last autumn and was in Queensland to see his pro-

tege last week. "Great lad," he said. "Should have a drink now and then." But Knight is asidious in his diet and tests show he is the fittest man in the England team.

"I think we can do still more in the field. Honestly, every



Nick Knight on the charge: 'It's not a fine judgement. I do it to unsettle the bowler'

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Alleyn may keep place on fielding

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY

which beat Sri Lanka in the second match at Brisbane will be retained though it will be worth considering a change to try to strengthen the batting order.

It is possible to get too pernickety about who should go in where, but in this company Adam Hollioake looks uncomfortably high at five. He could move to six, with Mark Alleyne standing down and Vince Wells coming into the team to bat at three.

Australia's eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in Sydney yesterday, which comprised most of their virtues and eventually came at a canter, hardly diminishes the contest. Another England win would give them three from three in the qualifying matches and an overwhelming advantage.

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Giant leap for Smith's peace of mind

Britain's foremost high jumper has just made his first attempt in six months to clear the bar – he failed but is delighted. By Mike Rowbottom

SHORTLY BEFORE three o'clock yesterday afternoon in the empty, echoing vastness of Birmingham's National Indoor Arena, Steve Smith failed to clear 2.10 metres in the high jump. He could not have been happier.

Just over five months earlier, a freak training accident had left Britain's Olympic bronze medallist unable to move his head or neck. This was his first effort over a bar since then – one small jump for Steve Smith, one giant leap for his mind.

As he approached his take-off with a full run-up, the only sound was the crescendo of his footsteps followed by a clanging and clattering as he sent both the bar and one of the supports flying. He lay still for a moment on the landing bed before flipping himself upright with the panache that has become his trademark in a seven-year international career. Three more jumps, the last of them at 2.20m, reinforced the message: he was back in business.

"There was a real sense of relief," he said. "I felt like a high jumper again. This was my first jump for almost six months and I was using a new run-up for the first time, so the whole thing felt very weird. But after this I know I can be very competitive again this season."

The details of the accident on 7 July remain horribly clear to him. It happened in an ordinary jump at the Wavertree track in his native city of Liverpool, two days before he was due to compete in the Oslo Grand Prix. "As soon as I landed on my back it was really painful," he said. "I couldn't move off the landing bed. But I thought that maybe it was just a matter of having to click something back into place. I hadn't ruled out Oslo."

Twenty minutes later, still prostrate and with paramedics stabilising his neck, he had ruled out Oslo – but was still thinking in terms of a month or two out of action. It was not until the following morning as he lay in a surgical collar at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, that the severity of his position sank in. "They had to give me morphine for the pain," he said. "I was so sleepy that my consultant



Jump of joy: Steve Smith back in business in Birmingham's National Indoor Arena yesterday after recovering from a disabling injury that threatened his athletics career

David Ashdown

had to wake me up to give me a diagnosis. He spouted all this jargon, and then disappeared.

"Malcolm Brown, the British team doctor, was with me at the time, so I said to him, 'What does all that mean?' And he told me I would not be jumping for the rest of the year at least. I was just devastated."

In one alarming incident he had been turned from an athlete who stood at the top of the world rankings to an anxious 25-year-old wondering if he would ever be an athlete again.

Smith was in hospital for 10 days, but spent longer worrying over a succession of diagnoses. At first, it was

thought he had torn intro-spinous ligaments and suffered a prolapsed disk. A second opinion presented a different picture: no ligament tear, and a disk which may have been

His mind was taken off his own predicament in August, when he travelled to the European Championships as non-playing British team captain. But the frustrations arose

10 minutes to realise that he could not face following the Games on television. "I thought to myself, 'You don't want to be watching this,'" he said. By this time, however, he had

recovered from his injury and was concentrating on keeping them all in line.

Smith will return to the same Birmingham arena at the end of this month for the AAA's indoor championships, before turning his thoughts to the World indoor and outdoor championships later this year.

But the real goal lies beyond.

"I am dedicating myself 100 per cent to doing well at the 2000 Olympics," he said. "I want to be in Sydney having done everything possible to give myself the chance of winning."

Yesterday marked a significant step towards that ambition.

No sanctions on Salt Lake City

THE International Olympic Committee has ruled out imposing any sanctions against Salt Lake City officials in connection with the Olympic Games' biggest corruption scandal, an IOC investigator said yesterday.

"The commission will not recommend any action against Salt Lake City," said Jacques Rogge, a member of the IOC panel investigating allegations of bribery in the city's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Games. "There is no action to be taken."

Rogge, meanwhile, confirmed that up to 12 IOC members have been implicated in the inquiry but rejected calls for the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to resign as "ridiculous". He also said the IOC was prepared to investigate charges of corruption in other host city election campaigns, including claims that Sydney officials were approached for bribes during their successful bid for the 2000 Summer Games.

Rogge, a Belgian member of the IOC's executive board, said the six-man investigative panel had considered sanctions against Salt Lake officials connected with the 2002 bid. However, he said the possibility was ruled out after the Salt Lake organising committee's leading two

OLYMPIC GAMES

officials, president Frank Joklik and vice-president Dave Johnson, resigned last week. "The people who were in the bid are no more," Rogge said. "They took the actions they thought were needed."

The head of the bid committee, Tom Welch, is also no longer associated with the Games. He resigned as president of the organising committee last year after being charged in a separate, private matter.

"The only action we could have discussed was against the people in the bid committee who were still on the organising committee," Rogge said. "As they have resigned, there is definitely no need for action. This does not imply any judgement on their behaviour at this stage."

Rogge said he understood that "around a dozen" IOC members had been implicated in the Salt Lake investigation. Letters were sent to those members this week demanding an explanation.

The IOC panel meets on 23 January in Lausanne, Switzerland, to conclude its findings, and will make recommendations to the full executive board the following day.

Samaranch has said that any members found guilty of corruption will be removed.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Ben Ainslie won the World Laser Championship in considerable style at Port Phillip Bay yesterday. The 1996 Olympic silver medallist could have afforded to sit out from the last of the 12-race series, leaving the Atlanta Games gold medallist and the man he has beaten four times since then, the Brazilian Robert Scheidt, and Sweden's Karl Sunesson, to

laplased before the accident. "It was a really confusing time," Smith said. "I kept thinking, 'If it's not clear what happened, what was to stop it happening again in the same way?'

again the following month as English athletes, including his main domestic rival Dalton Grant, swept up the titles at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. It took Smith about

decided to draw a metaphorical line underneath the events of the summer. He left Liverpool to live and train in Birmingham under the guidance of Tudor Bidder, the technical director of jumps for PAS, the Lottery-distributing body for British athletics. Bidder, who worked for most of the 1990s coaching in the Australian Institute of Sport, started Smith's rehabilitation programme, backed up by frequent physiotherapy.

A couple of months ago many of Smith's lingering concerns over his condition were allayed by another member of the AIS, Peter Stanton, who was in England to advise UK Athletics 98 on a physiotherapy programme. Stanton told Smith he had rotated his vertebrae in the accident – three had turned one way, two the

other. Now concentrating on keeping them all in line.

Smith will return to the same Birmingham arena at the end of this month for the AAA's indoor championships, before turning his thoughts to the World indoor and outdoor championships later this year.

But the real goal lies beyond.

"I am dedicating myself 100 per cent to doing well at the 2000 Olympics," he said. "I want to be in Sydney having done everything possible to give myself the chance of winning."

Yesterday marked a significant step towards that ambition.

The 21-year-old, now based in Lyngton and who celebrates his 22nd birthday on the fifth of next month, needed only fourth place in the 11th race of the series to win on a countback. Third gave him the world title outright. Despite being 15th at the end of the first leg, sailed in a south-westerly gusting over 20 knots, he soon pulled up to the vital fourth place.

Ainslie was working the short, steep waves to good effect, his fitness programme paying dividends and two months of training in Australia being rewarded. So, for good mea-

surer championship, sailed in Lasers, beating Robert Scheidt in Dubai. He went on to win the European Championship in Portugal and was voted the World Sailor of the Year by the sport's governing body, the International Sailing Federation.

He now takes a bit of a rest, but may appear at some regattas in New Zealand, an invitational in Dubai, before looking forward – with perhaps a try at the two-handed Star keelboat along the way – to the pre-Olympic regatta at Sydney in September. But he still has to go through the UK trial system, in Cape Town and Chile respectively; he was third last year he won the world single-



Ben Ainslie is all smiles during yesterday's final race Allsport

is well aware that Britain has strength in depth in the Laser class. Andrew Simpson's fifth place in Melbourne giving them two in the top six.

Taking time out from the adjacent race course to congratulate Ainslie was the Soling skipper, Andy Beadsorth. An 11th in the first race of the day was enough to maintain his sixth position overall. But with the Australian Cameron Miles scoring two wins, Beadsorth slipped to seventh at the end of the day.

Iain Percy remains fourth overall in the Finn Gold Cup, and Britain's other top single-hander, Shirley Robertson, had a worst-so-far ninth in the opening race in the Europe, but third place in the second race also kept her fourth overall.

Four British crews have made it through to the 25-strong finals of the 49er Skiff World Championship, which starts its 11-race series today.

They are Andy and Ian Budgen, Tim Robinson and Ian Walker, Paul Brotherton and Neal McDonald, and the current national champion, Ian Barker, partnered with the Australian Daniel Phillips.

Britain is also the current leader of the competition for the International Olympic Committee Cup, presented by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, for the top-scoring nation in the seven Olympic-class World Championships.

THE MARATHON legend Jim Peters, who caught the imagination of the public at the 1954 Empire Games in Canada when he staggered round the last lap, has died aged 80.

"Jim was a class runner when marathon running, unlike today, was unfashionable," said David Bedford, the international race director of the London Marathon and a former 10,000 metres world record holder.

"He trained harder than most – often 100 miles a week – and believed in the work ethic with his thousands of miles run in plimsoles. My first memories of him were from newspaper pictures showing him collapsing when in sight of the finish. Few athletes push themselves to such exhaustion."

Peters entered the Vancouver stadium around three miles ahead of his rivals but dehydration had taken its toll. He fell six times and his English team-mates at trackside could not help for fear that he would be disqualified. They were finally able to go to his aid when it was clear he was not going to cross the line. The race was won by the Scot, Joe McGhee, but Peters' efforts are fixed in the minds of millions who watched it on Movietone News.

Peters, who had broken the world record four times previously, retired from athletics after the Games – "It cost me my killer instinct," he said.

Obituary, Review, page 7

Maier said that he will also race two slaloms, a discipline he usually avoids, to collect combined points.

The Norwegian all-rounder Kjetil Andre Aamodt, the 1994 overall champion and Maier's closest rival, is 228 points behind the Austrian in the overall standings, but could easily close the gap over the coming week if Maier were not to compete.

Maier now plans to be in the start hut for every race leading up to the World Championships, including the two slalom events, starting with the demanding Lauberhorn slalom on Saturday. With pain-killers and muscle relaxants already a regular part of Maier's pre-race preparations, the reigning World Cup champion

is also resorting to more traditional Austrian remedies. He has been undergoing massages several times a day and having therapy with hot sands applied to the back.

Maier has won six races this season, including a giant slalom victory in Adelboden on Tuesday.

But with Saturday's slalom and Sunday's giant slalom making up the season's first combined event, Maier is well aware that Aamodt, who is equally skilled in both the speed and technical events, could erase his advantage almost overnight.

Maier, whose aggressive style is more suited to the slalom and giant slalom, rarely competes in slalom but was still good enough to win last year's combined in Wengen.

TOMORROW

RICHARD WILLIAMS

IN LAS VEGAS

SIN CITY CLEANS

UP ITS ACT

Prutour proves a big draw

CYLING

By ROBIN NICHOLL

Three of the 18-team places have been filled already by high-quality squads. Chris Boardman and his Australian team-mate, Stuart O'Grady, who were respectively second and first last year, return with their French team Credit Agricole.

US Postal Service, whose riders include Lance Armstrong, who recently won his fight against cancer, will be out to improve on their team's victory last May.

With the inclusion of the Dutch Rabobank, the challenge to any British hopes could be awesome, given the European racers' more intensive programme.

The Prutour opens with a race around the Thames Embankment and Whitehall on 28 May, and ends with another circuit race in Prince's Street, Edinburgh, on 29 May.

In between lies some exacting racing, with the Bristol to Swansea leg on day four described by the race director, Alan Rushton, as "the hardest race we have ever had. This will be one of the toughest races ever held in this country."

On British hopes for success, Boardman said: "Despite the overall strength in depth of this year's race, we will come with the same approach as last year."

1999 PRUTOUR SCHEDULE: 23 May Westminster circuit race; 24 May Medway to Faversham; 25 May Bath to Bristol; 26 May Bristol to Swansea; 27 May Swansea to Birmingham; 28 May Carlisle to Edinburgh and Edinburgh circuit race.

Maier to race despite injury

SKIING

Maier said that he will also race

two slaloms, a discipline he usually avoids, to collect combined points.

The DOUBLE Olympic champion Hermann Maier will ignore a back injury in order to compete at Wengen and Kitzbühel, the two toughest downhill events on the Alpine circuit.

The Austrian had been hoping to take a break from the World Cup to rest his back before next month's World Championships in Vall, but yesterday said he had decided to carry on in order to protect his lead in the overall standings.

"The back is not so good but not so bad either... we're working on it." Maier, who won a shortened downhill in Wengen last year, said. "I'm racing Wengen for sure and Kitzbühel next weekend if it does not get worse."

"Normally it would be better to rest but I'm in pretty good shape, except for my back."

Maier is also resorting to more traditional Austrian remedies. He has been undergoing massages several times a day and having therapy with hot sands applied to the back.

Maier has won six races this season, including a giant slalom victory in Adelboden on Tuesday.

But with Saturday's slalom and Sunday's giant slalom making up the season's first combined event, Maier is well aware that Aamodt, who is equally skilled in both the speed and technical events, could erase his advantage almost overnight.

Maier, whose aggressive style is more suited to the slalom and giant slalom, rarely competes in slalom but was still good enough to win last year's combined in Wengen.

Prince's 147 break wasted

SNOKER

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

PRINCE'S 147 BREAK

WASTED

SNOKER

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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PRINCE'S 147 BREAK

WASTED

SNOKER

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

PRINCE'S 147 BREAK

WASTED



target



Tulipomania is supposed to have died with the great crash in Amsterdam in 1637, when the state finally intervened to bring to an end three years of frenzied trading in the flower. That, anyway, is what historians tell us. But they are wrong. Tulip madness is still irresistibly with us. I know, because I'm a demented slave to the flower myself, and I'm not alone. In Australia, Japan and the US, in Chile, South Africa and New Zealand, in France, Italy and the Netherlands, tulip growers are falling over themselves to keep up with demand for this extraordinary flower, the sexiest, the most capricious, the most various, subtle, powerful and intriguing flower that has ever grown on earth.

It has had an adventurous life, full of more real dramas than any Hollywood screenwriter would ever dare to invent. Holland was the setting for one of its strangest escapades: the craze for tulips that raged there between 1634 and 1637 has puzzled historians ever since. How was it possible that at the height of the fever, one bulb of the tulip 'Admiral van Enckhuysen' could sell for the equivalent of 15 years' wages for the average Amsterdam bricklayer?

It was partly a matter of timing. The Dutch East India Company had been set up in 1602 and this, combined with Amsterdam's increasing importance as a port, marked the beginning of an era of great prosperity for the Dutch. Merchants got rich and, in their wake, lawyers, doctors, pharmacists and jewellers too. The tulip, only recently introduced from the East, became the ultimate status symbol, the definitive emblem of how much you were worth. In the 1680s, the city trader's Porsche performed the same function, though in a cruder way.

And the flower itself had a unique trick that added dangerously to its other attractions. It could change colour, seemingly at will. A plain red tulip might emerge the following spring in a completely different guise, the petals feathered and flamed in intricate patterns of white and deep red. Though tulip lovers of the time did not know it, these "breaks" were caused by a virus, spread by aphids, but the research providing the answer to a mystery that intrigued and ensnared tulip growers for centuries was carried out only in the late 1920s.

The very concept of a "virus" was not understood in the modern sense until the 1880s. And only the

advent of the electron microscope in the late 1920s gave researchers the necessary means to unravel its true nature. Early growers had a thousand theories on the best way to bring about the magic break. Some, taking their cue from contemporary alchemists, laid powdered paint on their tulip beds, expecting the colours miraculously to affect the flowers. It was no stranger than the alchemists' own attempts to turn base metal into gold. In fact it was rather better; for while the alchemists consistently failed in their endeavours, the tulip growers occasionally succeeded. They just did not know why.

Connoisseurs throughout Europe (and in the Ottoman Empire) had always rated "broken" flowers more highly than plain-coloured ones. For that reason, the broken flowers were the ones that commanded outrageous prices. But the virus was the joker in the tulip bed. Because its cause was not known, its effects could not be controlled. Virus-weakened tulips did not produce offsets as freely and vigorously as virus-free bulbs. Fine broken varieties such as 'Semper Augustus' were slow to increase and that, too, increased their value.

Those who could not afford the tulips themselves commissioned artists such as Ambrosius Bosschaert and Balthasar van der Ast to paint them. Even the grand master of Dutch flower painting, Jan van Huysum, could rarely command more than 5,000 guilders for a painting. But a single bulb of the tulip 'Admiral Liefkens' changed hands for 4,400 guilders at a bulb auction in Alkmaar on 5 February 1637. So the

priceless flower paintings we now ogle in the National Gallery are there only because some poor sap in Amsterdam could not afford the real thing.

Across the North Sea, England was not immune. Under the Stuarts, for instance, this country witnessed two civil wars, a regicide, a republic, a restoration and a revolution in breathless succession. But what was the gardener and staunch royalist Sir Thomas Hammer (1612-1678) of Bettisfield, in Flintshire, doing during this time? With one hand he was levying 200 supporters of the king to help him defend his patch in north Wales. With the other he was sending tulips to John Lambert (1619-1633), one of Cromwell's generals. Lambert, like Hammer, a besotted tulip fancier, lived at Wimbleton Manor. For his garden, Hammer sent him "a very great mother-root of Agate Hammer", one of his best tulips, coloured greyish-purple, deep scarlet and white.

Throughout the cataclysmic events of 17th-century England - the coming and goings of kings and Protectors, the Gunpowder Plot, the plague, the Great Fire of London - the tulip reigned, untoppled, on its flowery throne. It was the most sought after, most precious plant of the 17th-century garden, the flower of the age. This was not just in Britain. The tulip ruled all Europe, holding sway in the Bavarian gardens of the Prince Bishops at Würzburg and at Nymphenburg, the summer residence of the Electors; in the parterres at Schönbrunn, in the Hapsburg palace in Vienna; in the Mirabelle Gardens originally built for Archbishop Dietrich outside the city walls of Salzburg; at Saint Cloud, Hauts-de-Seine in France, where the Duc d'Orléans, brother of Louis XIV, employed the fine painter Nicolas Robert to record his fabulous collection of tulips.

Tulips, too, mapped the movements of many of those persecuted for their religious beliefs. Like messages written in invisible ink, tulips emerged slowly in the new grounds that Flemish and French refugees were forced to seek in the wake of Philip II's Catholic crusades.

In the second half of the 16th century, these Protestant Huguenots most probably brought the tulip into England from Flanders. Long before the Dutch cornered the market, this was the most important centre of tulip breeding in Europe. Some settled in Norwich. Others, such as the Flemish botanist Lobelius, settled around Lime Street in the City of London. Huguenot refugees brought the tulip into Ireland, too, where the Dublin Florists' Society

was founded in 1746 by officers in the Huguenot regiments that had fought for Prince William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne.

In Michigan, tulips arrived with a later wave of early-19th-century Dutch immigrants, members of the Dutch Reformed Church, persecuted by King Willem I. Under their leader, the Rev van Raalte, they quickly colonised Michigan's plains, establishing a regular demand for European plants. The demand was bravely met by a new kind of tulip entrepreneur: the travelling salesman. The Dutchman J.B. van der Schoot (1825-1878) spent six months in 1849 travelling through the US taking orders for tulip bulbs.

But, for me, the only tulipomania that matters is the one that rages among the English florists' tulips, the most beautiful tulips in the world. These were bred, for the most part, by 19th-century enthusiasts such as the Rev William Wood, a Unitarian minister at the Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds; Tom Storer of Derby, railwayman and tulip maniac who, lacking any garden, grew his tulips along Derbyshire's railway embankments; John Slater of Cheetah Hill, Manchester, who bred the supremely elegant, feathered red-and-white 'Julia Farnese'; and Sam Barlow, whose life as apprentice, manager and final proprietor of the Stakehill Bleach Works at Castleton could have provided the entire plot of an Arnold Bennett novel. They were all florists in the original sense of the word, devoting themselves single-mindedly to the culture of a particular flower, developing it by their own breeding to conform to a tightly laid down set of rules, and showing it in sometimes viciously contested competitions.

A Lancashire man, Barlow was born in Medlock Vale, the son of one of that band of earnest and enthusiastic working-men botanists who have done so much to create a love of beauty and sweetness in the too frequently unloved life of the Lancashire manufacturing districts. (*Gardeners' Chronicle*, April 1883) When his father died, Barlow, aged 30, was made manager of the Stakehill bleach works. Just six years later, he became its owner.

In its day, Stakehill was regarded as a perfect example of the way in which "high culture and exquisite taste can be associated

in the closest manner with the requirements of manufacturing industry". Paintings by artists of the Manchester School covered the walls of Barlow's house. More daringly, he also acquired one of the first Impressionist pictures to be bought by an English collector: *A Village Street, Louveciennes*, painted in 1871 by Camille Pissarro. Cabinets overflowed with "ceramic curiosities". Outside, wagonloads of soil were brought by railway from a plot Sam Barlow owned at Great Ormes Head, Llandudno, to replace the poisoned earth of the neighbourhood. Here Barlow built up the biggest collection of English florists' tulips that anyone had ever seen.

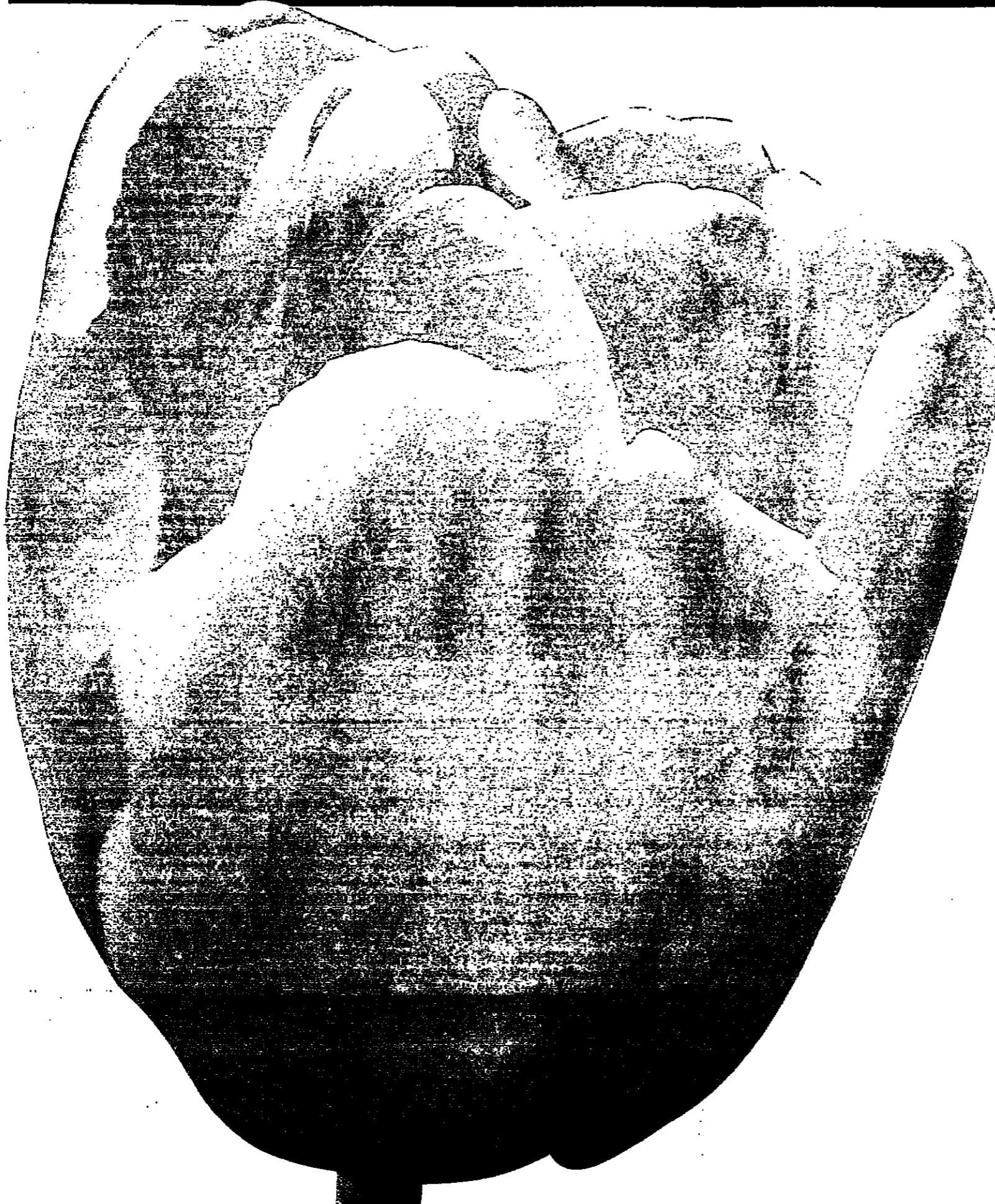
He spared no expense on his hobby and very much poorer florists such as David Jackson, a silk weaver living at Middleton, benefited. Barlow had set his heart on acquiring a tulip bred by Jackson around 1865 and named after his wife. It was a strikingly fine flower, with white petals heavily feathered in glossy black. He wanted, of course, the whole stock of the variety, so that nobody else could say they had it, and offered Jackson the weight of the bulbs in gold. He ended up paying even more but, as the Scottish florist James Douglas said at the time, "they are weak in the head about Manchester".

On 28 May 1893, Barlow, the man who "created a floral paradise amid a forest of chimney shafts", died after falling down the stairs of his Manchester warehouse. Fittingly, his name lives on in a tulip, raised by a fellow florist, the railwayman Tom Storer. The flames licking the petals of Sam Barlow's gold-and-scarlet flower commemorate the heartbreaking devotion of generations of past florists. Of the hundreds of tulip societies that once existed in this country, only the Wakefield Tulip Society in Yorkshire remains. In the petals of the exquisite, rare tulips still exhibited in competition each year by the Wakefield florists, runs the blood of flowers first grown by John Evelyn and John Rea in the 17th century. This is the tulipomania that matters.

Anna Pavord writes on gardening every Saturday in *'The Independent'*. To order her book, *'The Tulip'* (Bloomsbury) at the special price of £25 (p&p extra), call 01634 298 036 quoting the reference '25 tulip'.

THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Sex on a stalk

BY ANNA PAVORD

It earned its place in history by sending an entire country mad. And the tulip remains 'the most seductive, the most capricious, the most various, subtle, powerful and intriguing flower that has ever grown on earth'

**NHS in crisis**

Sir: I say that Florence Nightingale would be shocked and saddened were she to return to a present-day hospital ward. What a waste!

During the century after she founded the nursing profession as we knew it, to be a nurse was a source of pride and fulfilment. The "old-fashioned" ward sister knew and cared about every patient on her ward, knew, taught and counselled each nurse under her, organised and managed her team from senior doctor to lowly cleaner and was a mother figure to all on her ward. She was the respected and esteemed team leader who knew how to get the best out of her staff. A manager in mirth with a clipboard can never command the same qualities.

To work on a well-organised ward with a good sister was a pleasure: very hard work but fulfilling as one felt valued by the patients, the team and society. What we earned was less important.

ANN PUGH
York

Sir: The "flu crisis" has led to another staff shortage in the NHS. This will no doubt give way to another round of pay claims, the most eagerly highlighted by the media being that from nurses.

Could I shock you by saying that hour for hour a junior doctor earns roughly the same as a nurse? They only earn the "fortune" perceived because they work such long hours - because there aren't enough doctors.

It is the whole work force of the NHS that counts. Nurses, doctors, porters, cleaners and even (reluctantly) managers. Without them the NHS is doomed, so all reasonable pay demands must be met.

However, before April we will be told that public funds will not stretch, and then the public and the politicians will have a choice. Do we want taxes to remain as low as they are, or do we want a health service that is full of well-motivated, well-trained and physically and mentally alert staff? Because we can't have both.

You get what you pay for.
Dr C COLE
Queen Alexandra Hospital
Cosham, Hampshire

Sir: We shall enter the new millennium as we leave this one with public health care in crisis. Not because of finite resources but because health, like housing and education, is a poor competitor when compared with the "essentials" of society such as advertising, weapons and banking.

This absurdity is a consequence of running society in the interests of the wealthy. Governments cannot withstand the rich as they move their investments to the profitable areas of the globe. Hence countries compete for investment by offering low wages, low taxation and poor social welfare.

If we wish to institute social health we must remove power from the rich. Then we can set humane priorities.

HJC BEST
Lancaster

Sir: Do not be fooled by the slick marketing at our Chelsea site. As you say, the Royal Marsden is a world-renowned centre. "We must pay up to prevent the decline of our health service," 6 January. We could not maintain our reputation at the forefront of cancer care, treatment and research if we did not invest in buildings and facilities.

In the past seven years nearly £50m has been spent on new wards, operating theatres, treatment and diagnostic facilities. For example, we opened a new clinical block in 1991 and our purpose-designed children's unit opened in 1993; a dedicated imaging department and breast clinic that opened in 1994; a fully integrated haematology unit in 1995; and a rehabilitation unit with a whole range of facilities for patients returning from cancer treatment in 1996.

We are designed to be accessible and well organised for patients and



Signs of God No 4: A signed conversation takes place in the vestry of St Mary of the Angels, Cardiff, which serves a well-organised community of deaf Christians

Sex before the Pill

Sir: Deborah Orr writes that "sexual liberation... began with the advent of the oral contraceptive" ("The myth of sexual freedom", 8 January).

I am now 81 and before I was 20 I had some happy love affairs. This was before the Second World War and long before the advent of the Pill. I had to be very careful about contraception and used a cap, which didn't bother me or my lovers. As I did not at that age want to have a baby, I did not consider a lover as a potential father and felt wholly responsible for not allowing him to be.

If a woman does not want a baby she can prevent it unless she is careless or very unlucky. She herself can be in control of this very important issue and I cannot see why she should want to share her control with a man, unless she wants to have his baby, in which case they should discuss it.

I would prefer to remain anonymous for the sake of my children and grandchildren.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Sir: The underlying premise of K Haggart's diatribe about the supposed immorality of pregnancy outside marriage (letter, 11 January) is wholly false.

Throughout almost the whole of human history, and in much of the Third World today, infant mortality rates have been so high that the fear has been of failing to rear an adult successor, not of having more children than one could support. It has repeatedly been demonstrated that, regardless of the introduction of effective contraception, fertility rates do not begin to fall until there has been a sustained reduction in infant mortality.

In Britain, until the introduction of welfare support for the elderly, a barren marriage, with no children to care for parents in old age, was a dreaded prospect. There are many alive today who can remember when to become too old to work meant entry to the workhouse if there was no family support. To allay such fears, it was common practice for a marriage not to be finalised until the bride-to-be was pregnant. If pregnancy failed to occur within a decent time the betrothal was dissolved without recrimination and both parties were free to seek a new partner.

Young people should be discouraged from promiscuity on compelling health grounds and because it is corrosive to self-respect. To go beyond this in a return to oppressive, hypocritical pseudo-morality would benefit no one.

KENNETH CAMPBELL
Kettering, Northamptonshire

Pupils' progress

Sir: Far from being unlikely to deliver our pledge to reduce infant class sizes to 30 or below by the next election (leading article, 9 January), we have already made substantial progress and we expect that most schools will meet that pledge by September 2000, over a year ahead of schedule, with the remainder doing so by September 2001.

More than 100,000 infants are already in smaller classes as a result of money invested in teachers and classrooms. We have already allocated £57m and over the next three years we will allocate a further £560m to meet the pledge in full.

ESTELLE MORRIS
Minister of State
Department for Education and Employment
London SW1

Man of the years

Sir: Please thank Nicolas Walter (letter, 12 January) for coming to the defence of Dionysius Exiguus in the discussion about the millennium and the Year Zero. It would be terrible to go down in history as

Dennis the Short
*Who was short
Of a nought.*

PETER GALE
Ramsey, Isle of Man

A meeting of monarchs on the sea coast of Pretoria

HERE'S THE latest instalment of the redi-covered Shakespearean saga, *The History of King Tony* or *New Labour's Lost Lust*. King Tony and Queen Cherie have flown to South Africa to meet King Nelson Mandela, who was cruelly imprisoned and held from his inheritance for so long by the wicked Regent, Prince W Botha.

At an airport, South Africa, King Tony emerges from the aircraft, followed by his wife, his media hagiographers and country hangers-on. There comes to meet them King Nelson Mandela of South Africa, with courtiers.

King Nelson: Welcome, King Tony, thrice welcome to our shores!

Tony: Although you English have overcome our men, And beaten us in bloody fearful combat,

Yet I forgive your prowess on the field.

King Tony: Victory in battle? This comes as news to me!

Prince W Botha: If Mandelson were here, he'd know the score.

Alas! He shall advise me nevertheless!

A newspaper hack steps forward from the crowd. Hack: Your Majesty, I think the King refers to certain cricket matches played last year in which the English beat the Springboks side. Nelson: Spot on! You've got it right! For you must know

That I now take a great new pride in sport Which is the passport to my people's hearts. At least if they are white, I mean to say. My black South Africans could not care less, Except for soccer, which they seem to love. I only wish my black footballing team Was half as good as our white rugby boys!

So, how are things at home?

Tony: Oh, fine, fine, fine! Nelson: Then there's no truth at all in what I read Of squalor and cronyism, Cabinet splits...

Tony: These are the little things which come to vex us.

Above which we should always rise care-free. Leaving us time to face the real tasks, Of health and schools and roads et cetera.

Our plan is now in place and we have done

The spirit of Mandelson: 'Oh Tony, Tony, waste not time on this! They do not want the health and schools routine.'

Two thirds of what we pledged ourselves to do Let us be judged by what we have achieved

And not what petty tabloids have believed!

There appears to King Tony the spirit of Mandelson, which only he can see.

Spirit: Oh Tony, Tony, waste not time on this!

They do not want the health and schools routine!

That's all for home consumption. While you're here,

Make friends with old man Nelson - he can help

With Libya, Lockerbie and all that,

And that would be a great PR coup for you!

But King Nelson is an ageing man

And not long for this world: see if you can

Discover his successor and make friends.

Yet do it quick! He looks not well to me.

The spirit of Mandelson vanishes.

Tony: Oh, stay imperfect spirit, stay and say

What things await me on my coming home!

This book by Duke Cook's wife - does it contain

Much matter to my future loss or gain?

The spirit of Mandelson returns, looking flustered.

Spirit: Look, sweetie, I can't keep on doing this - These international vixens cost the earth!

But since I've got another minute more,

Yes, I have read Madame Cook's little oeuvre.

She moans a lot, and says that Cook hates Brown.

But so we all do, dear, what's new there?

I'd forget about the book if I were you...

Now fly I home to rebuild my career!

The Duke of Prescott has it in for me, I fear!

The spirit of Mandelson punishes for a second time.

Nelson: King Tony, tho' you seem lost in thought,

may I

Present to you th'Archbishop, Desmond Tutu?

Tutu: What's that?

Nelson: I didn't catch...

The spirit of Mandelson reappears, looking hot and bothered.

Spirit: Tony, are you affected by the baking

weather?

For God's sake man, just pull yourself together!

The spirit vanishes for the final time. Errol, looking thoughtful, save for the newspaper hack.

Hack: King Tony's looking more than a little frail...

I think I'll try that on the *Daily Mail*.

Errol, looking for a phone.

More of this anon, sweet gentiles.



MILES KINGTON

The spirit of Mandelson: 'Oh Tony, Tony, waste not time on this! They do not want the health and schools routine.'

Two thirds of what we pledged ourselves to do Let us be judged by what we have achieved

And not what petty tabloids have believed!

JULIUS

THE INDEPENDENT

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The Foreign Office must shrug off the burdens of the past

IF EVER proof were required of Britain's need to move from the burdens of the past to a more modest role in the world of the future, it must be in the procession of crises now hitting the Foreign Office. Yemen, Chechnya, Sierra Leone and Iraq: they are all serving to complicate the work of the Foreign Office with demands that it seems loath to understand. These crises are distinct in detail, of course. Chechnya has posed the problem of protection of nationals working abroad, and what we may reasonably ask of them in terms of information. Yemen asks us to choose between supporting our passport-holders and pursuing our foreign relations. Sierra Leone displays the deficiencies of intervention, while Iraq exposes the strains of our lonely loyalty to Washington.

But if there are common threads, then they are these. One - which we cannot easily get over - is the entanglements of past empire. London has become a home for all sorts of refugees and immigrants not just because of our tolerance but because we ruled so many places for so long. When we were fighting Communism in Aden or the Middle East, we encouraged fundamentalism abroad and allowed its leaders to take refuge here. Times change but we have to live with a colonial past, just as the French do with Algerian dissidents. And we have to accept, as the French must do too, that we can no longer control the fate of our former territories, in west Africa or anywhere else. That we lost no wars, and gave up our empire voluntarily, makes us in some ways more complacent, not better able to cope.

The second point is the protection of British citizens abroad. Like it or not - and the Foreign Office would clearly love the whole development to go away - more and more Britons are travelling abroad to faraway places for pleasure and business. They fall ill, and get taken hostage and shot at. In other words, they cause problems.

But they also, pace Sir David Gore-Booth and the other traditionalists in the Foreign Office, are the people who pay the salaries of the Foreign Office staff. For too long have the consular duties of British embassies been treated as the lesser area of our activities abroad.

If the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, had spent more time beefing up the consular service and less in worrying about his absurd ethical foreign policy and the social mix of his staff, we might be better able to cope with the Yemen situation. As it is, he is once again having to react to a crisis in which public concern has taken the initiative.

The worst foreign policy statement to come out of a government was Douglas Hurd's statement that we should aim to "punch above our weight in the world". We shouldn't. Our aim should be to develop a policy that suits our resources and supports our citizens as much as our interests abroad.



Mr Blair should find a useful job for his chum

WHERE NEXT for Peter Mandelson? The view of the Labour back benches is clear, namely that he should not be in government. They have made it plain to Mr Blair that, anxious as he may be to rehabilitate his old friend, Peter needs to do more penance for his error of judgement.

While many are settling old grievances, and others will never forgive the key architect of New Labour, Mr Blair will have to listen to his parliamentary grassroots.

He is entering choppy political waters, as we have seen in recent weeks, and he is going to need their patience and support. Thus, he may have quietly to drop his idea of pushing Mr Mandelson as some kind of "personal ambassador". But this is not to say that he should just let Mr Mandelson hang out to dry. For one thing, Mr Blair

might not be in Downing Street were it not for the efforts of the former trade secretary. And for another, Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson are friends. The Prime Minister needs and values his advice, comradeship and support. He should be allowed it.

One does not have to be a fully paid up subscriber to the *Führerprinzip* to accept that Mr Blair is entitled to choose his own friends and advisers. Hostile party hacks may as well ask him not to listen to Cherie.

But the Prime Minister needs to find Mr Mandelson a useful role for reasons other than sentimentality. Even his worst critics might grant that Mr Mandelson is an intelligent man, who has shown a flair for presentation, campaigning and winning elections. And this is a year of elections, above all. Mr Mandelson would be an ideal choice to design campaigns and reinvigorate a neglected party machine. This would not preclude him from making the occasional thoughtful speech on policy, or the Third Way. And he can also be used to press the vital need for Britain

to join the single currency. The ambitious Mr Mandelson might find such a prospect irksome. He long wanted a "proper job", a ministry, and to get away from spin. But he blew it. He must accept that. The party needs his talents. And, after he's spent a decent period of selfless service, Mr Blair will have the ammunition to silence critics; he can then call on Mr Mandelson to return to the Cabinet table. The penance will be worth it, for everyone.

Mischief maker

YESTERDAY WE reported that Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, would not be sitting on the rehearing of the Pinochet case after objections from the former dictator's lawyers. Lord Browne-Wilkinson, chairman of the appeal committee, called us "mischiefous" (while admitting the story was true). Quite right. And long may it continue. As the press baron Lord Beaverbrook once said, it's the duty of the press to create mischief, a dictum as apposite today as ever.

This phoney story of a bloodless man emerging from the shadows

HERE'S HOW it goes. Yesterday morning, when the other broadsheets had front pages dominated by the conclusions of the inquiry into Ashworth hospital, *The Daily Telegraph* alone led with another twist in the Peter Mandelson saga. "Book tells of plot to succeed Blair," claimed the sub-headline. On page 4, the main story was entitled: "Mandelson 'plotted to become PM'." And the plot? Ah yes, the plot. The plot is outlined in chapter 16 of Paul Routledge's book about Peter Mandelson - *Mandy: the Unauthorised Biography of Peter Mandelson* - to be published next week.

"There had always been a Blair project," declares Mr Routledge, thoughtfully pausing on the details. "Now, however, there emerged from the shadows the Mandelson project."

Which was that Peter M. "could support Gordon Brown as Chancellor and succeed Tony Blair" as leader of the Labour Party and prime minister.

Blimey! Even Routledge admits that "initially it seemed a preposterous idea". After all, as he points out, everybody hates Mandy, and he couldn't even get elected to Labour's executive committee when last he stood. But then the evidence began to stack up for the sceptical biographer.

And I'm going to outline it for you in detail. Here it is, item one, an interview in the *New Statesman* with the union leader John Edmonds in which he's nasty about Gordon Brown and nice-ish about Peter Mandelson. Item two, an article in *The Spectator* a month later by Irwin Stelzer, economist and friend of Rupert Murdoch, comparing Brown unfavourably to

Mandelson. Item three, Philip Gould's book, *The Unfinished Revolution*, published in October, which absolved Mandelson from betraying Brown over the party leadership.

That's it. That's the entire "Mandelson project" which "emerged from the shadows". I have to say that we owe Mr Routledge a debt of gratitude for being able to discern, in the deep gloom, what most of us would never have noticed, no matter how hard we might have looked. It sometimes requires an active imagination to lend faces and voices to the nebulous shapes that disturb our sleep. Perhaps some day the minutes of the secret meeting between Messrs Stelzer, Edmonds and Mandelson will be published, and Routledge and *The Telegraph* will be vindicated.

It is a shame that the author could find no role in the plot for one of Peter's gay friends, because they must have been in there somewhere. The recent outing of Mandelson on television by the journalist, Matthew Paris, saved Routledge himself the disturbing task of being the occasion for another bout of tabloid gassing. But in chapter 1 ("Scandal!"), Routledge recalls that, in the aftermath of the Ron Dennis affair: "The view began to take hold that Mandy was only the outward and visible sign of a wider network of homosexual men in key positions in public life."

The view "took hold" of the columnist Richard Littlejohn ("characteristically trenchant"), and Norman Tebbit ("characteristically blunt"), who both compared homosexuals to Freemasons. It took hold of "Tory politicians



DAVID AARONOVITCH
After all, everybody hates Mandy and he couldn't even get elected to the Labour executive

who asked questions about the magic fraternity". I am unsure whether "the magic fraternity" is a Tory phrase, or Routledge's own. It took hold of "some observers [who] see the club [of New Labour insiders] as a pink Mafia" or in the amusing American parlance, the "homintern." It took hold of Stephen Bayley, former artistic director of the Millennium Dome, who is quoted as saying: "What is worrying is that people of power and influence are involved in an interest group which just happens to be a sexual one. It is a secretive interest group. It just happens to be about male gay sex."

Bayley goes on, uninterrupted by Routledge: "It is both defined by the bonds of secrecy and strengthened by them. As soon as those bonds are loosened, its powers are diminished." A bit like secret protocols, really. God,

when an idea "takes hold", it's amazing where it can lead you! But Bayley's sentiments do make it all the more surprising that, in chapter 7 ("Outed!"), Mr Routledge professes himself astonished that Peter Mandelson will not just come out and tell everyone about his sex life.

"The question arises: why does Peter Mandelson deny his sexual orientation?" Routledge writes.

Well, he does acknowledge it a bit, Routledge concedes; for here are the ubiquitous "others" again to "argue that Mandelson uses his gayness as a political and social weapon". If that's true, then Mr M can hardly complain when Fleet Street camps (whoops, sorry) on his doorstep. Furthermore: "The issue of Mandelson's sexual orientation will not go away, certainly not until he makes a clear, unambiguous statement that satisfies..." That satisfies whom, Paul? Lord Tebbit? Stephen Bayley? Me? No. "That satisfies his gay critics."

There you have it. If it weren't for the "gay critics" the whole "issue" would go away. Paul Routledge himself has said enough about Peter Mandelson's sexuality to put the "issue" beyond doubt for all of us straights, but those "gay critics" demand more. Perhaps it was their presence that prevented Routledge from attempting any serious analysis of exactly why someone like Peter Mandelson should prefer not to wear his sexuality round his neck, in a way heterosexuals never have to worry about. After all, to find out why homosexual politicians might want to stay in the closet, Paul only has to reflect

on the articles he himself writes about them. The same reflection would also give Paul Routledge other insights, absent from the book. Such as, what was it about old Labour that became so unattractive to almost all classes of voter that the Blair project was seen as the solution? This analysis holds the key to Labour history for the last 20 years, and Peter Mandelson played an important strategic part in providing it. So did Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, and Neil Kinnock.

I have known Peter Mandelson for more than 20 years, and met Paul Routledge (whom I like enormously) at Routledge's own request. Some inconsequential remarks by me are (accurately) reported in the book. And it was not going to be, he told me, a "stitch-up". Yet the Peter Mandelson who "emerges from the shadows" is a man all of whose faults are magnified, and all of whose achievements are diminished. He is bloodless, manipulative, unprincipled, treacherous and calculating. Even his statement about Pinochet, that it would be "gut-wrenching" to see the old tyrant brought to justice, is attributed by Routledge (with no evidence) to a desire to curry favour in the party, and help him fulfil his shadowy plan.

I am not a Mandy man, and have never taken a briefing from him, or seen him socially for several years. I just happen to know something about him and what really makes him tick. And that puts me well ahead of anyone who relies on this homophobic and conspiracy-obsessed work of partisanship for their understanding of an important modern political figure.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Wow, I've just won a big bank account!"
Philip Ozersky,
who caught and then sold Mark McGuire's record-breaking baseball for £1.6million

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"When one burns one's bridges, what a very nice fire it makes."
Dylan Thomas,
Welsh playwright and poet



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
US newspapers comment on the progress of President Clinton's Senate trial

him has been. The widening gap between Washington and the rest of the country will not begin to close until Washington makes a greater effort to understand the values held

so strongly by ordinary people. *USA Today* IMPEACHING A president carries different risks for the nation than impeaching one of

several hundred federal judges. If the evidence supports the allegations of material perjury or obstruction of justice to the reasonable satisfaction of most senators, then the Senate has a duty to remove Bill Clinton from office. The historical consequences of sweeping such conduct under a congressional carpet would be too serious. *The Detroit News* THE PRESIDENT will survive; the partisans will gripe, and

it turned and bruised but still surviving, is finally destroyed. *The Washington Post* AS THEY look at the impeachment spectacle, Americans do not see individuals sacrificing weekends and evenings to conduct the nation's business. They see people who care little for anything other than their desire to bring Clinton down or protect him. Bill Clinton's fate is not yet decided. But the fate of those judging

PANDORA

PANDORA IS looking forward to Michael Cockerell's *How To Be Home Secretary* (Sunday, 24 January, BBC2), in which – for the first time – documentary television cameras are allowed inside the Home Office. Of special interest will be the segment in which the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who is ultimately responsible for MI5, discusses the MI5 file that exists on him, initiated back in his so-called "subversive" days in the Seventies. Has Jack seen it? Can we all have an on-air peek?

LAST THURSDAY, just a day after a group of ramblers, led by Andrew Bennett MP and accompanied by several policemen, marched down the controversial footpath in East Sussex belonging to Nicholas Van Hoogstraten, a new barbed-wire fence was erected. Although his spokesman had told the press that Van Hoogstraten had left the country to holiday in France, a ramblers spokesman yesterday assured Pandora that the landowner supervised the building of the fence. In the meantime, Van Hoogstraten – a multimillionaire who made his early fortune in Brighton property and was sentenced to Wormwood Scrubs back in the Sixties for a hand-grenade attack on the home of a business associate – has just found a new journalistic ally following years of savage press attacks. Auberon Waugh, in his column last Sunday, expressed his loathing for the ramblers and described Van Hoogstraten as "not the sort of person one would wish to ask to tea" but "ideal as a champion against the Ramblers Association".

SCOTTISH POWER was all set to launch its brand-new £3m national advertising campaign, designed by the Barrie Bogle Hegarty agency to extol the benefits of signing up with the gas and electric firm. Then, new year storms blasted the North Country.

"We decided to postpone the campaign for a while," a Scottish Power spokesman told Pandora. "Instead we've been running advertisements advising the 20,000 people who are entitled to compensation – £50 for 24 hours without power – to apply for it." Sounds like a perfect example of that old ad agency maxim: "Don't mix your messages."



IN THE latest issue of *Loaded*, Pandora was amused to read that the Arsenal midfielder, Ray Parlour, is dishing the dirt on his team mate Tony Adams, with whom he shares a room on away trips. Speaking of Tony, whose playing career reblossomed after giving up the booze a while back, Ray confides: "When he's not thinking about his piano, he's writing poems. I'll be lying there trying to get off to sleep and he's in the bathroom with the light on and his notebook going: 'Here Ray, listen to this what I've written.'" Parlour confesses that he's not always an enthusiastic audience for Adams's late-night readings, but assures the lads that: "We're like a couple of old dears."

THE SAGA of Sly Stallone's Miami house has been exhaustively covered by Pandora, including Rambo's desire to sell the waterfront property to the London-based Orient Express group and his neighbours' objections to having a luxury hotel built in their vicinity.

Now a new buyer for Sly's pad has appeared on the horizon. His name is Gunther IV, he's a frisky Alsatian dog and he inherited a fortune from his canine father, who was left a reported \$65m (£40m) by a German countess in 1962. The animal now owns a company said to be worth \$200m, and houses in the Caribbean and in Europe.

He has expressed his approval of the property in Miami by running around the garden with one of his handlers. Pandora suspects that Madonna, who lives nearby and was on the verge of selling her own house recently, might be far happier to welcome a guard dog into the neighbourhood than crowds of gawping tourists.

KENNETH BRANAGH, about to direct *Love's Labour Lost* as a film musical, has made a rather surprising casting decision. The Beverly Hills brat-next-door star of *Clueless*, Alicia Silverstone (pictured), will play opposite Branagh.

Nobody was more surprised than the 22-year-old Alicia. "I can't do this," she told him. Branagh responded: "Of course you can." Filming starts in this country in February; Silverstone is working hard on her singing lessons.

I HAVE read with incredulity the rubbish, mostly written by forty-something men up to no good I am sure, that has followed in the wake of the book by Margaret Cook (dump the surname – Margaret) about her marriage to Robin Cook and the ignoble end at Heathrow airport of that period of her life. It is personal, they say – vindictive, vengeful and embittered.

Yes. What else is someone in her position supposed to feel? You may persuade yourself that you will try not to show these feelings, because the world will love and respect you less for this than if you pretend a saintly forgiveness, of the sort that Hillary Clinton has now made her own. But burning hurt and rage are what you feel, and revenge (preferably divine) is what you yearn for. Ask me – I know, and I wrote an emotional book about it.

What gets these commentators really foaming is not only that the partner of a famous or powerful person should be so weak as to respond in these human ways, but that she or he should then reveal this vulnerability. They have nothing to



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

Mr Cook should praise his ex-wife's courage and tell his boys to respect their wonderful mother

say about the public figure flaunting the new model in the media, thus further humiliating the ex-partner. But they do sanctimoniously ask whether it is right for someone as insignificant as a spouse to expose the private life of a politician, or whatever, and cause them damage.

Wrong question, sirs. You should instead ask whether the partner of

a public figure has the same rights as you or me to say and write what they wish about their lives, especially when they have been maltreated. Or are they expected to render their pain invisible just to keep up appearances?

Writing, as the playwright David Edgar said this week, is a fundamental and universal human right. It is also a "vital part of being human to try to understand why other human beings – nasty as well as nice – behave as they do". Other criticisms don't stand up, either.

If Dr Cook has said things that have alarmed her ex-husband's colleagues because of political implications, why should this be any more outlandish and unethical than the dirt-digging carried out by Paul Roudtree and other unauthorised biographers? Maybe it is because she is not a seedy political chappie hanging out with Charlie Whelan, but a fragrant wife, "a slight and delicate creature" (the clever title of her book) who should be coping with her knowledge by devoting herself to nurturing a bonsai tree.

As for the ludicrous worries that

lot, might be more democratic and fair in the way they dealt with those they betrayed and left after many years of good service. And if this is indeed "new" Britain, which is more open and receptive to emotion, as everyone from Martin Jacques to Susie Orbach seems to be suggesting, we should rejoice that people like Margaret Cook are no longer hampered by the pressures of old, unjust social constraints.

Margaret is a thoroughly modern, bright, professional, emotionally honest woman, who has written a lively account of a survivor who saw it all her way, at least after Robin flew away. Like Diana, Princess of Wales, she refused to read out the part written for her by someone else. She wanted it put down as it happened, from her point of view.

If Robin Cook wants to do the right thing now and come out shining, all he has to do is praise his ex-wife for having the courage to do what she has done, say that he can understand how he has made her feel, tell his boys to respect their wonderful mother, and wish her well with all his heart.

You would have hoped that Labour men and women, although clearly not able to resist sexual temptation any more than the last

We must send in troops to stop the killing in Kosovo



MARY KALDOR

There should be no talk of a political settlement before a ceasefire is firmly established

JUST BEFORE Christmas, Veran Matic, director of the independent Belgrade radio station B92, met the American special envoy to the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke, and asked him why he continued to talk to Slobodan Milosevic. Holbrooke replied that there was no credible opposition leader. Matic replied that what was important was not individual leaders but support for a broad range of democratic initiatives to build alternative public opinion.

In wars, it is always the democratic groups committed to peaceful methods of managing conflict that get squeezed. War is polarising – there is no space for democratic initiatives. Nowhere is this more true than in Kosovo, where 10 years of non-violent resistance by Kosovar Albanians to Serbian repression failed to gain international support. Within Kosovo, the peaceful approach has lost legitimacy. The international community's task to find a political solution has been much harder since the war began.

The political positions of both Milosevic and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) depend on their uncompromising stance and, indeed, on continuing violence. It is hard to see how the KLA could ever give up its demand for independence, or how Milosevic could ever concede more than token limited autonomy (after all, it was he who took away the province's autonomy in 1989). Moreover, the international community cannot even fulfil its role as mediator because of its own distaste for independence, for fear of further fragmentation.

The escalation of the violence is reminiscent of the war in Bosnia Herzegovina. The international community is reluctant to intervene militarily and pin its hopes on the success of political negotiations, which are always elusive. The humanitarian crisis and media attention slowly drag them into the

huge physical destruction to villages and infrastructure, and many refugees and displaced persons.

Moreover, it will be difficult to contain the violence to Kosovo. Conflict could escalate in Macedonia and Montenegro, even in Albania. To avoid this scenario, a change of strategy towards Kosovo is needed. There should be no talk of a political settlement before a ceasefire is firmly established and normal life has begun to return to the province.

This was, after all, the British government's approach to Northern Ireland: there was no question of involving the IRA in talks about Northern Ireland's political future before a ceasefire had been convincingly established. Milosevic is as much of a terrorist as Gerry Adams or Adam Demaci (the KLA spokesman) – if not more so.

Talks should focus on establishing a meaningful ceasefire enforced by peacekeeping troops under OSCE auspices who would also be responsible, as in Bosnia, for controlling weapons stores and for demilitarisation. The forces should be commanded by Europeans, probably British or French. There should be a token Russian presence to satisfy the Serbs and, if possible, a token US presence to satisfy the British who do not want to commit ground troops without this. At the same time, the "extraction force" that is currently based in Macedonia, under Nato auspices, should be expanded and renamed a "deterrent force" to intervene in the event that the ceasefire breaks down.

The initiative for this change of strategy would have to be taken by the Europeans. The Americans are unwilling to commit ground troops and the only form of military action they are prepared to take, as in Iraq and as was threatened earlier against Serbia, is air strikes.

But air strikes are notoriously counterproductive, especially if they



UN peacekeeping soldiers in the Balkans "should intervene"

are not followed through by ground troops. They provide an excuse for cracking down on the opposition and they increase support for extreme positions. The threat of air strikes in the autumn provided justification for closing down some independent media and the repressive university law, as well as making things difficult for aid organisations.

It also hardened opinion, not only in Serbia but in Republika Srpska as well. European governments have been pioneering a new approach to peace-enforcement that contrasts with the American preoccupation with bombing. The British Defence Review is innovative in the way that it reorients British armed forces to contingencies of the Bosnia and Kosovo type.

Moreover, this kind of thinking is not confined to the British. The Danes developed their own strategic concept during the Bosnian war and were very effective at enforcing humanitarian corridors and even eliminating Serbian tanks. A stra-

tegy of this kind has to be combined with a political effort to support and build up democratic alternatives in Serbia as well as Kosovo and indeed in the whole Balkan region.

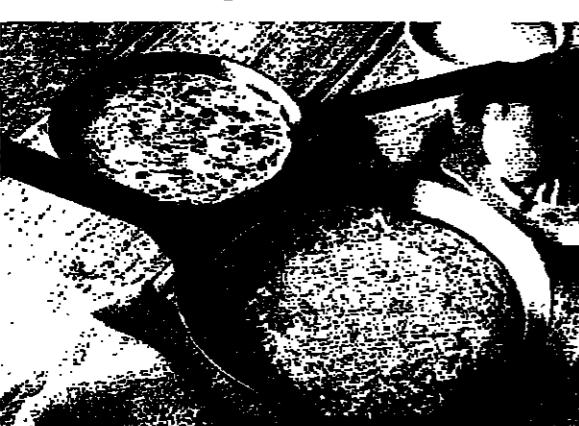
Milosevic needs to be isolated, not courted, by the international community, and indicted by the war crimes tribunal. The indictment of Radovan Karadzic did help open up new political perspectives in Bosnia. The international community needs to talk to and support the democrats, whoever they are and however marginal they appear today.

Those engaged in the fighting have to stop the violence, but they will never be able to find a lasting solution. In the end, it is independent-minded citizens such as Veran Matic and others who will create a situation where peace can be constructed.

*Mary Kaldor's *New and Old Wars: Organised Violence in a Global Era* is published this month by Polity Press, price £39.50 hardback, £12.95 paperback*

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Are call centres the new sweatshops?



PODIUM

VICKI BELT

From a speech by

a research associate at

the University of

Newcastle to the Royal

Geographical Society

CALL CENTRES are offices dedicated to delivering services to customers over the telephone. Call centres are used across a range of sectors, including financial services, travel and transport, information technology, marketing and retail. Call-centre staff, or "agents", typically spend their working hours seated at their desks in constant contact with customers, making or receiving telephone calls and processing information.

The research seems to suggest that employers often consider females to be more suitable for call-centre work than males, mainly because they are regarded as having "natural" communication skills and the ability to "smile down the phone". In our research, this was a huge growth in these call centres over the last 10 years. One study has claimed that at the end of 1997 there were as many as 3,560 call centres in the UK alone, employing a total of approximately 163,000 staff. This growth looks likely to continue into the next century.

Call centres have recently captured the attention of the media and the academic community. It has been argued that they are the "new sweatshops", and that they offer us a disturbing vision of the shape work will take in the future.

Women outnumber men in virtually all call centres. At the lowest, they make up 40 per cent of employees; at the highest, 90 per cent. There are some differences between sectors, with males better represented in IT call centres than in others. On the whole, the staff employed in call centres tend to be young, aged between 20 and 30.

The research seems to suggest that employers often consider females to be more suitable for call-centre work than males, mainly because they are regarded as having "natural" communication skills and the ability to "smile down the phone". In our research, this was a huge growth in these call centres over the last 10 years. One study has claimed that at the end of 1997 there were as many as 3,560 call centres in the UK alone, employing a total of approximately 163,000 staff. This growth looks likely to continue into the next century.

Call centres employ a range of the latest management techniques. In particular, team working and "empowerment" are widespread. The majority of call centres have flat organic organisational structures with three layers – agent, supervisor and manager. The relationships

between staff and management in the call centres that we studied were on the whole described positively. Most agents are on first-name terms with managers, and some described their centres as "family-like" environments.

The majority of call centres are not unionised, and staff had mixed views on this. Some agents, supervisors and managers were hostile to unions. Call-centre staff are heavily monitored. Calls are often recorded, and supervisors can listen in to calls when they wish. In addition, copious statistics are collected about agents' performance. However, despite being hostile to this, most agents seem to accept monitoring as necessary aspect of their work.

In line with other studies, our research found that agents are often frustrated by the repetitive nature of the job. Taking calls all day is deemed to be stressful, tiring and dull. "There's only so many times you can say what your name is and what the product is," one commented. "Sometimes you get 85 calls a day, and you just can't speak when you get out of here. It's terribly boring."

"I really try to think of other things that I do in my free time," said another. I do oriental dancing, belly-dancing, and I think, what would be a good costume?" I also do meditation and yoga, and I try to switch off completely and think of absolutely nothing. But you do find you have to resort to things to keep yourself sane after a little while of working in a call centre."

As a result of the routine and stressful nature of taking calls all day, many agents complained of "burn-out". Indeed, staff turnover is high in many call centres because of this factor. It was clear that many agents feel that their work is undervalued by wider society. A number of agents said that they have constantly to "convince" people that they have a "proper" job.

However, despite this many women enjoy the atmosphere in call centres, claiming that they have "energy" and "buzz", and are "fast-moving". Furthermore, many call centres have developed an excellent work-related social life, and are considered sociable places with a good "team spirit".

About half of the women interviewed expressed a desire to move up the career ladder. However, agents stressed that promotion is difficult. Furthermore, most of the women with career aspirations did not express a desire to move beyond supervisory level.

There is a danger that call-centre work confirms women's position in servicing and caring roles, and their subordination in society as a whole.

Such childish behaviour



ANN TRENEGAN
The Bramleys are looking for a fairy-tale ending. They want someone to kiss it all better

EVERYONE INVOLVED in the saga of the runaway foster parents Jeff and Jennifer Bramley believes that what they are doing is for "the sake of the children". The police say it, the social workers insist on it, the various parents are all convinced of it. Certainly that is what the Bramleys themselves believe. In fact, the letter that they have written to the world at large pleading their case, begins: "We, Jeff, Jenny, Jade and Hannah, write this letter to tell the plight of a family that love each other and wishes to stay together." This is misleading in at least one respect. Jade is five. Hannah is three. They did not write this letter. Grown-ups wrote this letter, just as grown-ups created this mess.

I do not know why the Bramleys decided that now is the time to tell all. Perhaps, after 17 weeks on the run, they are growing tired of it all. Undoubtedly they have become obsessed with their plight - who wouldn't be? - and have decided that the only way to right things is to tell the world about their injustice. Thus they sat down at their secret location and addressed a letter "To Whom It May Concern". The letter fills three-and-a-half sides and tells us much that is supposed to be secret. They say they are good, honest, caring people who were rejected as adoptive parents because they were observed to say "no" too often.

It is the kind of stuff that makes your heart ache and you can see that they really do believe that they wrote the letter for Hannah and Jade. But it was two adults who decided that the only way forward was to run away from the system. It was the adults who have now decided they want to come in from the cold. And now it is the adults who believe that the great god of publicity will somehow put things right.

They are not the only ones who believe this. "If only we could get this story out, everyone would see how crazy it is and they would let me keep my daughter," one young mother said to me years ago. She, like the Bramleys, had chosen to disappear with her child rather than abide by a social services decision. She, too, was outraged. She, too, had a heartbreaking tale and good reason to rail against a system that is secretive to the point of obsessive-



PC Peter Morley holding two coats belonging to Hannah and Jade Bennett, found in the car abandoned by Jeff and Jennifer Bramley Manni Mason

ness. It was against the law for me even to talk to this mother. Eventually the High Court got involved.

"The upbringing of a young girl is at stake here!" said a barrister. He was wrong, of course. What was at stake was not a child's life but a system that tries to be caring but can also be ruthless.

That mother never got her publicity, and I don't know what happened to her. If she is still out there, hiding, then she will be noting that the first result of the Bramleys' plea has been not vindication, but soap opera and chaos. Everyone who ever touched the lives of these girls has been getting in on the act.

First came the natural mother, Jackie Bennett. This is a woman who has given up her children, then fought to get them back, and now has decided that the Bramleys should have them after all. "I want my children to be settled in one place, in one school, with a loving

family like yourselves," she says. I'm not sure whether we should believe her, but it certainly grabbed yesterday's headlines.

The next one to care and share was Paul Duckett. He is the father of Jade but has never had much to do with her upbringing. Not that this stopped him from appearing on the *Today* programme. The Bramleys, he says, cannot really love the children. "If they did, they wouldn't be dragging them around England in this nomadic style." He loves Jade very much, he says, and "this is hurting me a lot." He added: "You don't see me writing these big letters. It's a ploy purely to get the public on their side."

Social services are also worried. Not, however, about whatever circumstances led to this sad situation. By the way, we still do not know everything about these circumstances. The Bramleys did allude to them in their letter but some bits of

it have not been printed. It just goes to show that, though the soap opera is played out in public, in private the system continues to protect itself. Secrecy remains paramount. It is often said that the system has to be so secretive to "protect the children". This is true almost all of the time but when it breaks down - and drives people to abduct children - then secrecy is part of the problem. Not the solution.

Anyway, it turns out that Liz Railton, director of Cambridgeshire Social Services, is also worried for the sake of the children. "Are they going to school? Clearly it seems not. Are they going to the doctor? Are they having contact with other children? They need all that contact." Then she appealed to the Bramleys "to put the children first, over and above their own distress - even though I know that is incredibly difficult". It was time, she said, to give the children back.

It is enough to make you want the Bramleys to stay fugitives for ever but, I suspect, this is not to be. It seems inevitable that they will come back, after making contact in such a dramatic fashion. In fact the letter shows two people who are desperate to come home: "Jade and Hannah are two bright, intelligent, articulate children who love us with all their hearts. We ask therefore, will someone help us to be legally their Mummy and Daddy for ever, making the hopes and dreams of these two wonderful girls come true." The Bramleys are looking for a fairy-tale ending. They want Jim to fix it for them. They want someone to kiss it all better, just like that.

But if they are acting childishly, then they have company. All the grown-ups believe that they are right, and have found some moral reason why this is so. To hear Cambridgeshire Social Services going on about whether or not Jade and

Hannah are visiting a doctor beggars belief. The problem is not whether Jade and Hannah are visiting a doctor; the problem is that the system has messed up to such an extent that Jade and Hannah are fugitives whose foster-parents have had to appeal to the nation. That is what should be talked about, not doctor's appointments.

This is a dire state of affairs. The adults have messed up - and badly. In fact, if anyone should be giving lectures, it should be the children. Perhaps they should get their own lawyer to demand that all the grown-ups sit down now and figure out a way for the fugitives to come in from the cold and get a fair hearing. Then, after the adults all feel better, perhaps someone could figure out what really is in the best interests of these two little girls, who could be forgiven for thinking that unconditional love is a pretty hard thing to come by these days.

RIGHT OF REPLY

PETER MOORHOUSE



The chairman of the Police Complaints Authority responds to criticism of their inquiry into the Lawrence case

THE INDEPENDENT'S criticisms of the PCA are surprising as when we supervised the investigation in 1997, and produced a summary report, it was described by *The Independent* as "a damning indictment of the inquiry into the racist murder of Stephen".

Your recent editorial omitted to say that charges would also have been preferred against four other officers involved, had they not retired. But we are not permitted to bring discipline charges against resigned or retired officers under existing regulations.

The suggestion that "internal investigations are not tough enough to control a force that can mislead witnesses, lose or destroy evidence, and ignore promising leads" is questionable. The authority would have charged all five senior officers for these very failings.

Effective liaison with victims of crime has long been a problem for the police service. The investigation concluded that the failures in this case lay with senior officers conducting the murder inquiry. It would be wrong to bring disciplinary action against inexperienced junior officers who attempted and failed to provide effective family liaison in this case.

The discipline review had to decide whether officers who took part in the murder inquiry breached the Police Discipline Code. The system demands that charges must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. The authority has pressed since 1991 for changes to the discipline system, including reduction in the standard of proof, and many of the changes are due to be implemented this April.

Criticise the legal framework within which the PCA must work, and you would have our support. But to criticise us for working within the legal framework laid down by Parliament is unjustifiable.

Going East with the Bard



THURSDAY BOOK

NEW SITES FOR SHAKESPEARE: THEATRE, THE AUDIENCE AND ASIA
BY JOHN RUSSELL BROWN. ROUTLEDGE, £12.99

leaves him cold, but he is captivated by a funeral procession and cremation ceremony. In China, he parleys with thespians; in Japan, he witnesses today's dramatists and directors using traditional without growing stale.

Russell Brown sounds as if he had a good time. In one Indian district, he comes across a group of three actors who give all-night shows lasting 12 hours. With only three actors? Not problem, comes the reply, because as many as 40 audience members come on stage and improvise parts. But how can you keep an audience's interest

for 12 hours? Well, try this apple wine and smoke the "leaves of a locally grown herb". School trips to the local rep were never this much fun.

Once, a power failure cut off electric lights for a show in Kerala, southern India, leaving the stage lit only by a low-level lamp. The result was an unexpected optical illusion in which the actors seemed to float in the dark, evoking a "dream-like state". Bye-bye naturalism, hello visionary theatre.

But is this just another case of cultural imperialism? One bored former associate director of the National Theatre roams the world, picking up tasty hints from faraway cultures, and brings them home to spice up the West's jaded palate? Definitely not. Russell Brown does not want to plunder Third World theatre and import its gems. He prefers to learn from it and see what its methods might do for our stage.

For example, India's Kuyattam theatre, which is both highly contrived and extensively improvised, provokes thoughts about how today's Shakespeare tends to be rehearsed to death. While, in the Thirties, Stratford productions had a two- or three-week rehearsal period, today's rehearsals stretch over as many as eight weeks. Lack of rehearsal makes actors improvise more and take greater risks, with the result that their acting is more alive. Long rehearsals mean careful, original interpretations that may put audiences to sleep.

Not only does Russell Brown want to change actors; he also wants to change audiences. Drawing on his experience of open-air theatre in India,



and dramatist argued against carefully prepared, long-running productions. The art of acting "may profit a little by failure, but what it cannot endure is the numbing monotony of success". Highly polished performances are related to good acting, he said, as reproductions are to an original Rembrandt.

Let's imagine such ideas applied to today's Royal Shakespeare Company. Instead of the director-led, long-rehearsal institution, we would have 10 smaller companies working as actors' collectives. Actors would quickly learn their words and improvise on stage. There would be a different show every night. All the pricey scenery would go on the scrap heap; all the costumes to the Theatre Museum. Every clothes and common props would be used; audiences would be encouraged to cheer at the action.

Not only does Russell Brown want to change actors; he also wants to change audiences. Drawing on his experience of open-air theatre in India,

he shows how spectators there treat

carefully prepared, long-running produc-

tions. The art of acting "may profit a little by failure, but what it cannot endure is the numbing monotony of success". Highly polished perfor-

mances are related to good acting, he said, as reproductions are to an origi-



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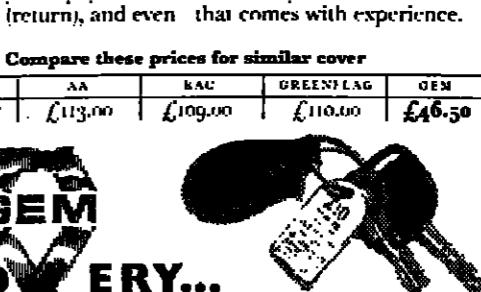
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THURSDAY POEM

THE FAULTLINE
BY BERNARD O'DONOGHUE

When there's a sprinkle of snow
In mid-January, yet not enough
To stop it turning vein-translucent.
When young relationships freeze
And snap. When death, suddenly,
Crops up in the conversation
And no-one quite remembers
Who raised the subject. As far past
Solstice as November was before it;
No sign of spring, and no
Going back. All just serving
To show, in case we'd forgotten,
Our faultline: that we're designed
To live neither together nor alone.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Bernard O'Donoghue's new collection, *'Here Nor There'* (Chatto & Windus, £8.99).



Brian Moore

A SLIGHT, lonesome-looking Irish gentleman, invariably photographed wearing a capacious mackintosh or tweed jacket and a quizzical smile; Brian Moore's modest appearance belied an achievement as boundless as his talent. His fan club extended from Graham Greene and Alfred Hitchcock to Christopher Ricks, Anita Brookner and Barry Humphries.

His 20 novels appeared at regular intervals, without any apparent fuss or strain, as though on some creative production line, and were all praised with a fulsome that became predictable. He won many prizes, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times, and saw five of his novels filmed. His imagination ranged freely across continents and time zones, from Thirties Belfast to modern New York and from France under Napoleon III to the Jesuits of 17th-century Quebec. And the main themes of his work, the concerns that spurred him again and again to write, were the largest and most problematic of all: virtue, conscience, faith and sin.

Despite regular publication, plaudits and prizes, Moore never quite achieved fame. Partly this was the result of location: he never lived in England, where his reputation was highest, and was never part of the literary establishment there or in America. But he was an outsider by temperament. Uniquely among established writers, he would not accept cash advances for his work, saying, "They make you a kind of indentured servant to the publisher: if a book isn't working, I like to be able to throw it away." Nor would he have any truck with modern trends such as the walk-on part for the author ("I'm not the sort of writer who can afford flourishes. I don't want the reader to hear or see me") although it could be argued that he pre-dated magical realism in *The Great Victorian Collection* (1975), where an antique expert's dream exhibition of priceless objects is reified outside his window in Carmel, California.

He cannot quite be claimed as one of their own by English or Irish or American or Canadian literature. He wrote for no constituency except intelligent readers of strongly plotted novels underpinned by a serious moral purpose. "I like to say that I have no parish," he told Michael Shelden in 1997:

'I'm not the sort of writer who can afford flourishes. I don't want the reader to hear or see me'

Höss, the notorious commandant of Auschwitz, watched as witnesses went up to spit in Höss's face, and never forgot the final interchange. The judge said, "You are responsible for the death of at least a million people. What have you to say for yourself?" Höss looked at the court. "I am a German officer," he replied proudly. "I obeyed my orders."

Moore left Belfast, he said, to spare his parents the spectacle of seeing him refuse to attend Mass on Sundays. But it was the pursuit of a woman 10 years his senior that brought him across the Atlantic to Canada in 1948. The object of his affections turned him down, but he stuck around, became a journalist on the *Montreal Gazette*, and started to write. He married his first wife, Jacqueline Scully, a French-Canadian, in 1952.

His first books were written under the *nom de plume* of Michael Bryan. The first published under his real name was *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*. It had been rejected by 10 American publishers when it came into the offices of the

London firm of André Deutsch in 1954. Laurie Lee, the poet and future author of *Cider With Rosie*, considered it offensive because of a scene in a lavatory, but the editor Diana Athill recognised its qualities and recommended Deutsch buy it. It was published in 1955, was reviewed with instant enthusiasm and won the Author's Club prize for a first novel.

A bleak tale about a lonely alcoholic Belfast spinster, the germ of the book was a stray remark made by Mrs Keogh, one of Moore's mother's lame-duck single friends: she had been engaged just once, and used to refer to "my brother-in-law that would have been". The poignancy of the remark triggered some creative empathy in Moore that would be replicated in further novels of women suffering a loss of faith or a disastrous impulse towards carnal love (*I Am Mary Dunn*, 1968; *The Temptation of Eileen Hughes*, 1981).

Religion, sex and an Irish background constantly recurred in Moore's work. He had a virtual fetish about writing in the voice, and the skin, of a woman. He defended it lightly, saying, "If I write as a woman, I can do all the autobiographical stuff without getting picked up on it"; but the regularity with which he performed this transgender ventriloquism suggests a deeply serious engagement with female emotional responses. The charting of a doomed modern love affair, in *The Doctor's Wife*, filled with off-puttingly clinical sexual encounters, marked perhaps the low-point of these explorations, although the book was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1976.

Moore moved to New York in the early Sixties. His marriage broke up and, in 1966, he moved to California with his second wife, Jean Denney, to whom many of his novels are dedicatedly inscribed. They settled in Malibu, and spent holidays in a fir-lined, ocean-overlooking retreat in Nova Scotia, her family's home.

The condition of home and exile, especially Irish exile, informed many of his books, most notably *The Luck of Ginger Coffey* (1960), which was filmed with Robert Shaw and Mary Ure. Two decades later *The Mangan Inheritance* (1979) featured a reverse journey, with an American writer searching for his Irish roots, and a foothold in literary history through kinship with the poet James Clarence Mangan.

One, perhaps surprising, influence on Moore's work was the movie director Alfred Hitchcock. Educated by Jesuits, and as religion-haunted as Moore, Hitchcock was impressed by the "cold eroticism" of *The Feast of Lupercal* (1956), in which a nervous schoolteacher spends an innocent night with a young girl. He liked the way Moore got inside women's heads, and signed him up to imagine how the wives of famous modern spies might react to their defection. The result



A writer who combined effortless story-telling with moral questioning

Alan Macdonald

ALAN MACDONALD was one of the pioneers of BBC global television news. He was a tireless champion of BBC World, the BBC's international 24-hour news and information channel.

Today, BBC World is watched in nearly 60 million homes in 187 countries, and CNN's supremacy has been challenged. Macdonald held a passionate belief that it was the BBC's duty to create a television news channel to match the excellence of BBC World Service radio. In 1986, he left his job as political correspondent at the World Service to take the first tentative steps.

In those early pioneering days, when CNN ruled in the global news village, Macdonald and his colleagues found much opposition, and innumerable obstacles. Many BBC executives did not share his enthusiasm for the venture. Funding was a fraught subject as neither the licence fee nor the World Service grant-in-aid was available. The commercial route was taken, and the BBC's global television news service was developed by the commercial division of the BBC. There were concerns too over standards - how could a commercially funded news channel maintain BBC standards?

Alan Macdonald was at the forefront of the launch in 1991 and subsequent development of BBC World Service Television (now BBC World), the BBC's first international satellite television channel. He became Head of Business Development and Regional Director, South Asia and the Middle East, and established partnerships and distribution arrangements as the channel spread throughout the world. Now, there is scarcely a continent or country where the BBC World signal is not available.

Macdonald's background in the world's most respected radio service was useful in his new role. But he knew only too well that no matter however strong the brand, tougher rules apply in the commercial market for news: markets do not suddenly appear when satellite signals are beamed; each territory is fought for against both established and growing competition; and each territory must cover its costs. If the BBC can succeed with BBC World today, it will be because of the early work done by people like Macdonald.

Those who watched him at work in India, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Middle East and elsewhere, saw him combine an understanding of the commercial realities with an admirable personal code. He believed in establishing long-standing relationships based on trust, and many of his business partners became friends. Alan Macdonald cut a distinctive figure among the younger media men of today - tall (he towered above most people), old-fashioned in manner and mode, a little eccentric (he was one of the few BBC executives who rode a motor-bike), imaginative and amusing.

He was born in 1945 and educated at Whitgift School, Croydon. He went on to read Chinese, Economics and Sociology at Leeds University, after spending a year as a teacher in Malaysia working with the British aid organisation Voluntary Service Overseas. From 1966 he worked as a regional newspaper reporter before joining BBC World Service as an international journalist.

He joined External Services News, as it was then, in March 1972 and held a number of positions - notably duty editor, specialist editor and Newsroom assistant editor. He travelled to many parts of the world as a foreign correspondent, and worked in London as the BBC World Service political correspondent during the early years of the Thatcher government.

Even serious illness he was diagnosed with a brain tumour a year ago didn't dampen his spirit nor stop him. It was characteristic of Macdonald that he turned aside all advice to stay away from work. He believed he had a personal duty to the BBC, and he did his duty until the end of his life.



A little eccentric for the BBC

Macdonald was an active supporter of the Downs Syndrome Association and played a major part in the early 1980s campaign to curb the use of the term "mongol".

BOB WREATHON

Goro Yamaguchi, shakuhachi player; born Tokyo 1933; married (two daughters); died Tokyo 1 January 1999.

Professor Valerie Pitt



I shall now leave the church

VALERIE PITT was one of the most astute, perceptive, entertaining, and when she wanted to be - which was much of the time - devastating figures of the late-20th-century Church of England, a church with which she had a long and turbulent relationship of disloyal faithfulness. Drawn to Anglicanism by its theological potential rather than its culture, she once wrote that its spiritual life was "carefully insulated from the world in which coal is mined and lemon meringue pie is made ... Betjeman is only too justly its poet."

Her theological position is perhaps best described as one of "radical orthodoxy", a term which only came into fashion in Cambridge as she was dying. Her theological and spiritual mentors were Austin Farrer, Gordon Phillips, Michael Ramsey, and her dear friend Percy Coleman who had been her confessor for over 50 years.

Born in 1925 in Peckham, the eldest of six children, Valerie Pitt was

part of a working-class family with strong socialist convictions. One of her grandfathers was active in the Amalgamated Engineering Union, while the other helped to lead the Bakers Union and addressed the bakers strike in Trafalgar Square in 1912.

After school in Camberwell, she went to St Hugh's College, Oxford, in 1943 to read English; and there, having been secretary of the Socratic Society, she was received into the Anglican Church. Her BA dissertation was on the roots of Shelley's philosophy, and she wrote her only major published work on Lord Tennyson, *Tennyson Laureate* (1962).

After four years lecturing at Cardiff, in 1953 she became a Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, but in 1958 returned to London, where she became a lecturer at Woolwich Polytechnic, an institution which was to be her academic home, under its various identities as Thames Polytechnic and the University of Greenwich, for almost 30 years. She was head of the Department

of Liberal Studies and later of the School of Humanities, becoming one of the first "polytechnic professors" shortly after her retirement.

It was the 1950s monthly journal *Priam*, the organ of a new breed of progressive Anglo-Catholics, sometimes called the "angry young An-

glicans", which made Valerie Pitt's name well-known in radical church circles. Her *Priam* pamphlet *The Church Commissioners for England* (1967) was one of the earliest critiques of that curious body, while her satirical reflection on the cliché-ridden and patronising style of the 1958 Lambeth Conference, published in November 1958, is still relevant today.

In 1965 she was elected to the Church Assembly (the precursor of the General Synod), where, on 29 June 1967, she introduced a resolution calling for the admission of women to holy orders, a critical resolution which was not to see its fulfilment for many years. Her spontaneous speeches were awaited with delight and anticipation that what she said was to be a formidable member of any audience. On one occasion, in a south London church where a clergyman was using his sermon to defend the British nuclear deterrent, she suddenly rose, and announced to the electrified congregation: "Reverend Father, I do not propose to stay in this church and witness the misuse of this Christian pulpit for the promotion of militarism. I shall now leave the church, and the churchwardens will kindly inform me when the Mass resumes." The preacher was so taken aback that he lost the thread of his sermon and retired in confusion as

Pitt was escorted back to her pew. She was deeply hurt by the behaviour of some of the overseas bishops at the Lambeth Conference of 1968 and wrote a letter to the *Church Times*, asking "Can I myself - could any decent person - remain in the kind of church that [was] displayed to us? Do I want to?" Yet Valerie Pitt remained a woman of profound Christian faith, even if increasingly discontented with what she took to be the trivialising, the shallowness and the lack of serious thinking and debate in the Church of England.

KENNETH LEECH

Valerie Joan Pitt, English scholar; born London 14 February 1925; Fellow, Newnham College, Cambridge 1953-58; Lecturer in Humanities, Woolwich Polytechnic (from 1970 Thames Polytechnic) 1958-62; Senior Lecturer 1962-66; Principal Lecturer in charge of humanities 1966-71; Head, School of Humanities 1971-86; Professor 1987; died London 4 January 1999.

Goro Yamaguchi

THE BAMBOO flute is central to Japanese traditional music. It is played vertically, with a notched mouthpiece and five finger holes - four equidistant on top and an upper one at the back for the thumb. It is called a *shakuhachi*, a name derived from the native measuring units defining the instrument's standard length, one *shaku* and eight *hachi*, a total of 54.5 centimetres. It is made only from a certain type of bamboo, the *mandake* (*Phyllostachys bambusoides*) which is sliced off near the root to create the swelling "bell" at the base. The inner bore is lacquered. There is no need.

One of the great modern masters

of the *shakuhachi* was Goro Yamaguchi, who was born into a family of traditional musicians. His mother played the *koto* and the *shamisen*, and his father, Shiro Yamaguchi, was a leading virtuoso performer on the *shakuhachi*. He gave Goro his first lessons at the rather late age of 11.

His son showed such an amazing gift for the instrument and made such rapid progress that he was able to give his first concert at the age of 13, in 1947. This was despite the fact that the instrument is considered the most difficult to master. It takes a long time to acquire the characteristic head-shaking that produces its haunting mystical tones, its almost

ethereal voice, half-human, half-animal, that sends shivers up and down the spine. Just to be able to produce a sound takes long practice. The bamboo flute had come to Japan, like so much else, from China in the late seventh century and was included in Japanese court orchestras (*gagaku*) until the end of the ninth century. From the early 16th century it was associated with the Fuke sect of Zen Buddhism. The playing of the *shakuhachi* was regarded as a spiritual discipline by the priests and a source of enlightenment for the listeners. The Zen religious practice has endured to the present day, but the

bamboo flute has become secularised and is now often heard to sublime effect in works by contemporary composers both Japanese and Western. It has also gained popularity with classic jazz musicians. It is a musical feature of many *chambera* or samurai sword-fight movies in which it is sometimes used as a weapon of a non-lethal nature. The *shakuhachi* was used in Minoru Miki's kabuki opera *An Actor's Revenge* (for which I wrote the libretto) when it was performed by the English Music Theatre at the Old Vic season in 1979.

Goro Yamaguchi's renowned albums of traditional music include the

selection of Earth's music rocketed into space by NASA's *Voyager 2*.

In 1992 Yamaguchi was designated a "living national treasure" (*ninjin kokuhō*). He was also a sensitive teacher, and in the United States was the first visiting Artist in Residence to honour Wesleyan University's programme of classical Japanese music.

Fittingly for a dedicated performer of Zen music, his funeral took place at Zenkoji Temple in Tokyo.

JAMES KIRKUP

Goro Yamaguchi, shakuhachi player; born Tokyo 1933; married (two daughters); died Tokyo 1 January 1999.



A little eccentric for the BBC

Macdonald was an active supporter of the Downs Syndrome Association and played a major part in the early 1980s campaign to curb the use of the term "mongol".

BOB WREATHON

Alan Neil Macdonald, journalist and television executive; born London 24 April 1945; married (two daughters); died London 9 January 1999.

BIRTH MARRIAGE & DEATH

ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

The Princess Royal and the Duke of York were awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise in 1998. The Queen's Award for Enterprise is given to individuals and organisations for their contribution to the UK economy. The award is presented by the Queen at a ceremony in the Royal Chapel of St George at Windsor Castle.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment has been renamed the Queen's Life Guards. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, which includes the Queen's Dragoon Guards and the Royal Horse Guards, has been renamed the Queen's Life Guards. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, which includes the Queen's Dragoon Guards and the Royal Horse Guards, has been renamed the Queen's Life Guards.

Alan Macdonald

Jim Peters

IF THE "Mile of the Century" between Britain's Roger Bannister and Australia's John Landy was the most talked-of race in track and field history before its running on 7 August 1954 at the Empire Games in Vancouver, the marathon that had begun two hours earlier on the same afternoon was to become, thanks to Jim Peters, the stuff of athletics legend.

Bannister, who had run his four-minute mile earlier in the same year did not disappoint his admirers and duly beat his great rival Landy in a truly memorable race. Barely 20 minutes later, as the temperature in the non-existent shade rose to 75°F against the rather incongruous backdrop of the snow-covered Grouse Mountains, the 35-year-old Peters, favourite for the marathon gold medal, entered the sun-drenched arena, weaving and swaying from side to side.

Sixteen men had begun the race but only six were to return. Peters, along with his countryman Stan Cox, took an early lead, passing the five-mile mark in 26min 1sec. The race wore on up the steep Kingsway and through the Vancouver streets, deserted thanks to viewers watching on television or in the stadium, but before long it was plain that all was not well. Peters passed the 20-mile post in 1hr 48min but Cox, by now about 400 yards behind, was beginning to feel the effects of sunstroke.

There was a heat haze over the roads and the melting tarmac began sticking to his rubber-soled shoes. Just before the 25-mile mark Cox became so groggy he crashed into a lamp-post but when he heard that Bannister had won the mile he got up and ran another 100 yards before the police led him away to a nearby ambulance.

Peters, who had set a new world record earlier that year and had covered more than 5,000 miles in training, struggled up the last two hills but arrived at the stadium gates in a dangerously dehydrated condition with the last 35 yards around the track to run. Staggering and clawing his way along on all fours and falling at least six times, he took 11 minutes to cover 200 yards.

Bannister, along with others at the track-side, could only watch as they knew any attempt to assist Peters would disqualify him. Eventually though, after crossing the photo-finish line nearly 200 yards short of the actu-

al finish line, he could go no further and with arms and legs still going through the motions of running he was carried off to hospital to join Cox, who was fighting for his life.

Peters spent the next seven hours in an oxygen tent during which time no less than half a gallon of saline solution and dextrose was fed into him intravenously. As the treatment took effect, the two men began to recover. Joe McGhee, meanwhile, an RAF officer from Scotland, had fallen over five times during the race and called for an ambulance, but when he heard that Peters and Cox were out of the race he got up and finished the course to win.

The psychological and physical reactions Peters suffered were so marked that he was advised by doctors to retire from athletics and he never ran again, although he always maintained he was robbed of the gold medal in Vancouver as the course was longer than the regulation 26 miles 385 yards.

Those appeals fell on deaf ears, but the Duke of Edinburgh awarded him an honorary gold medal on Christmas Eve of the same year for his gallantry, and

Staggering and clawing his way along on all fours, he took 11 minutes to cover 200 yards

last year, to mark his 80th birthday, Peters was proud to receive the Duke's good wishes once again.

Born in Homerton, east London, but raised in Becontree in Essex, Peters was a useful schoolboy cricketer and footie before taking up athletics. The outbreak of the Second World War interrupted his progress. Peters joining the RAMC, but afterwards, and by now a qualified optician, he returned to running, although he was disappointed to finish only ninth in the 10,000m at the 1948 Olympics in London.

Approaching the age of 30, he was tempted to retire, but his coach persuaded him to take up marathon running



Peters reaches the end of his Empire Games marathon, Vancouver, 1954

and engaged him in a series of innovative training techniques focusing on speed and strength routines. In 1952 he set the first of four world records for the distance with a time of 2:20:42.3 but failed to finish at the Helsinki Olympics owing to cramp.

The following year however, with a running style that grew more and more exaggerated and led at times to blood seeping from his torso as his thumb-nail tore into his vest, he set two more world records and won four of the world's largest marathon races. Then, on 26 June the following year, with a time of 2:17:39.4 in the Polytechnic Marathon from Windsor to Chiswick, Peters

became the first man to run under 2hr 20min for the marathon.

In his later years Peters remained in touch with his club Essex Beagles and was a Rotary Club member near his home in Thorpe Bay in Essex. Prior to his death he had been fighting cancer for six years, and of those who witnessed his heroics in Vancouver or were among the millions to see it later on Movietone News, few would have been surprised that his final battle lasted so long.

ADAM SZRETER

James Peters, runner; born London 24 October 1918; married (one son, one daughter); died 9 January 1999.

Fabrizio De André

FABRIZIO DE ANDRÉ was the anarchist son of a wealthy industrialist, a native of Genoa who preferred Sardinia, and a singer-songwriter who was very sparing with his words: "I write songs and I speak." De André pointed out, whenever he came under pressure to do either of these things, "only if I have something to say."

In a musical career spanning 35 years, he came up with enough to fill only 19 LPs, including "best of" and live recordings. What he said, however, moved generations of young Italians, and had a profound effect on the nation's song-writing tradition.

With his jowly, deeply lined face, constantly half-obscured by smoke from a never-ending string of cigarettes, De André would not have looked out of place as a night-club crooner. But his intense, mesmerising ballads - of the outcast and downcast, of war and religion, of the inequities of power and capitalist might -

would have jarred in that atmosphere. Besides, such close and regular contact with the public would have been hell for this very private performer. "For years, I couldn't even get up on a stage without drinking a litre of whisky to steady myself beforehand," he confessed.

Yet music was the driving force in the life of De André who, as a teenager in the 1950s, would hawk his compositions around record producers in Milan. In 1968, at the age of 18, his first single "Nuvole boracce" ("Baroque Clouds") was released, sinking more or less without trace. He limped from medical studies to humanities and then law, playing his guitar in small-time Genoese bars and writing songs. Then in 1965, he penned "La canzone di Marinella" ("Marinello's Song"), which was recorded by the female singing star Mina. With £600,000 of royalties in his pocket, De André ditched university and launched himself into a full-time musical career.

His fascination with folk traditions led him to blend Sardinian and native American music in his 1981 album *Fabrizio De André*. The musician David Byrne was deeply impressed - and influenced - by his *Creusa de mia* ("Mule Track by the Sea", 1984), songs inspired by Mediterranean culture and sung in Genoese dialect, which pre-dated the World Music boom.

Ever a champion of the underdog, De André sang his support for gypsies, su-

cide cases and illegal immigrants. He lambasted hypocritical clients of prostitution, and the death penalty. And, for a while, he sympathised with bandits in his adopted home in Sardinia. Until, that is, they kidnapped him and his wife Dori Ghezzi in 1978, keeping them chained to a tree in the island's desolate heartlands for four months. The irony of the anarchist being ransomed for £600m - a vast sum at the time - by his wealthy capitalist father was lost on no one. De André, however, shrugged it off, and, characteristically, turned the experience into "Hotel Supramonte", one of his best-loved works.

ANNE HANLEY

Fabrizio De André, singer-songwriter; born Genoa, Italy 18 February 1940; married Dori Ghezzi (one son, one daughter); died Milan 11 January 1999.

BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES
& DEATHS

DEATHS

TOMLINSON: Lucy Margaret, died suddenly at home 7 January 1999 aged 59. Funeral at Worcester Crematorium, 21 January, at 11am. Loving mother, daughter, sister and friend.

ROYAL
ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal presents Worldwide's 10th anniversary Business Awards at the Royal Institution, London W1; as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, attends a Neighbourhood Safety Partnership Luncheon at Claridge's Hotel, London W1; and, as Patron, British Quality Foundation, attends a Founder Members Reception at St James's Palace.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

GAZETTE

FORTHCOMING
MARRIAGES

Mr D. W. de Vos and **Miss S. L. Pullen**. The engagement is announced between Dirk, son of Mr W. de Vos of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Mrs A. de Vos, of Cape Town, and Samantha, daughter of the late Mr Lester Pullen and of Mrs Angela Pullen, of Nassau, Bahamas.

BIRTHDAYS

Captain Sir Alastair Aird, Comptroller to the Queen Mother, 68; **Professor Sir Melville Arnott**, cardiologist, 90; **Mr Peter Barkworth**, actor, 70; **Miss Carol Belamy**, executive director of Unicef, 57; **Mr Richard Briers**, actor, 65; **Baroness Brooke of Ystradfeilte**, former Vice-Chairman Conservative Party, 91; **Lady Byford**, former President, Conservative and Unionist Association, 58; **Lord Catto**, president, Morgan Grenfell, 76; **Miss Fay Dunaway**, actress, 58; **Mr Michael Foster MP**, 35; **Miss Maina**

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Benedict Arnold, soldier and traitor, 1741; Dr Albert Schweitzer, missionary surgeon, 1875; Hugh Lofting, writer, 1886; Hal

Gielgud, ballerina, 54; Miss André Greenglass, former managing director, Glensby International, 59; Mr Brian Hardie, cricketer, 49; Sir Martin Holdgate, President, Zoological Society of London, 69; Mr Jack Jones, singer, 61; Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, former Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, 71; Mr John Lever, Headmaster, Camford School, 47; Mr Warren Mitchell, actor, 73; Trevor Nunn, theatre director, 59; Sir Neil Pritchard, former ambassador to Thailand, 88; Sir Vernon Seccombe, chairman, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, 71; Ms Caterina Valente, guitarist and singer, 88; Mr Bill Werbeniuk, snooker player, 43; Sir John Woodcock, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 67; Mr Roger Young, chief executive, Scottish Hydro-Electric, 55.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Portraits (ii): Van Dyck, Equestrian Portrait of Charles I", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Bowles, "Rococo and the Decorative Arts", 2pm. National Portrait Gallery: Liza Vaughan-Hughes, "A Golden Quill: a programme to mark the quatercentenary of the death of Edmund Spenser", 1.10pm. British Museum: Timothy Clark, "Harunobu and the Birth of the Japanese Colour Print", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Patricia Falkner, "Dutch Paintings", 1pm.

LEONARD
CHESHIRE

Lord Puttnam delivered the Leonard Cheshire Lecture yesterday at the Stationers' Hall, London EC4. His subject was "Inclusion or Exclusion? - disabled people in tomorrow's society". Mr Jonathan Dimbleby and Sir David Goodall, Chairman of Leonard Cheshire (the Leonard Cheshire Foundation), also spoke. Among those attending were:

Sir Patrick Waller, Leonard Cheshire International; Mr Bryan Dalton, Director General, Leonard Cheshire; Mr Ronald Travers, Leonard Cheshire Golden Jubilee Chairman; Mr David Grayson, Chairman of the National Disability Council; Mr Richard Gough, Chief Executive, Arthritis Care; Mr Bert Meade, Chairman, Help the Aged; Sir Peter Rance-Bethell; Ms Sue Sayre, Chief Executive, MS Society; Mr James Strachan, Chief Executive, RNID.

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LECTURES

AMONG THE well-read, breasts always arouse thoughts of an eminent Powell - not the novelist or the late politician, but the Supreme Court justice whose name was used for them by Gore Vidal in *Myron* (1975). It was a protest against censorship. Those two full syllables were well chosen. Meanwhile, Myra

OBITUARIES/7

HISTORICAL NOTES

MALCOLM BROWN

The long, slow road to Civvy Street

THE COMMON perception has it that the First World War came to its sensationalistic halt on 11 November 1918 and that that was effectively that end of fighting, end of story. On the contrary, the ceasefire was followed by an unhappy coda which had many in high places wondering whether the Bolshevik plague then sweeping the Continent might overtake the Channel, with as its prime agent the very men who had won the recent astonishing victory.

"Keep the home fires burning / Till the boys come home": Ivor Novello's famous 1915 song was but one factor among many that produced a powerful urge among soldiers everywhere to get back to "Civvy Street" immediately after the armistice was done. Writing at 11.01 on Armistice Day an infantry sergeant in France stated in a letter to his wife: "The question on everybody's tongue is 'When shall we get home?'"

The answer was slow in coming and deeply unsatisfactory when it came. The British government announced as its top priority the release of so-called "pivotal men": those who could be slotted back instantly into the running of the nation's economy. But this in effect meant last in, first out. The earliest in uniform, those who by definition were the furthest removed from their pre-war civilian skills, were bitterly resentful. One officer marooned in far-off Persia wrote to his wife: "My con-

sideration afraid of being upset." Further afield troops were still mounting massed meetings of protest in Egypt as late as April.

The Australians managed their demobilisation with rather greater success, because their commander, Sir John Monash, upheld the principle of "First come, first go". "Our demob is going on very steadily," wrote a "Digger" corporal in the spring of 1919. "The system is very fair and upheld owing to that fairness by all the boys."

With hindsight it is clear that political motives played virtually no part in the British soldiers' disaffection: when Tommy said he wanted to go back to Blighty, he meant precisely that. A Royal Engineers sergeant would later comment: "It seemed as though the whole Army had become imbued with a spirit of revolt against the system which had held the individual for so long." But revolt did not mean that the soldiers were revolutionary: rather they were just "bloody-minded" at what they saw as a palpable injustice. In sum, they were far more likely to sing that favourite, heart-felt Tommies' dirge, "I want to go home", than ever to burst into the "International". But they had made their point: they demanded, and finally got, fair play.

Malcolm Brown is the author of *The Imperial War Museum Book of 1918, Year of Victory* (Sidgwick & Jackson, £25).

County court's contempt jurisdiction

THURSDAY
LAW REPORT

14 JANUARY 1999

M (a minor)

Court of Appeal

(Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward)

16 December 1998

if so, how that power should be exercised, and whether the judge had been in error in the instant case.

Dennis Sharpe for the mother; the father in person; Alice Robinson (instructed by the Attorney General) as amicus curiae.

Lord Justice Ward said that the judge had had jurisdiction to act to his own motion. Pursuant to section 38 of the County Courts Act 1984, the circuit judge might make any order which could be made in the High Court if the proceedings were in the High Court.

There was no doubt that the High Court had power to make an order of committal of its own motion when the contempt was committed in the face of the court. Further, RSC Order 52 rule 5 was wide enough to apply to the present case had it been in the High Court and, by virtue of section 38 of the 1984 Act, it applied in the county court as well.

In the case of civil contempt the court had to bear in mind the extent to which knowledge of the breach had become a

matter of public concern, amounting to scandal capable of diminishing the authority of the court such as might lead to an increased flouting of its orders, and also the extent to which some interest other than that of the litigant was in need of protection.

The contempt had to be clear as well as flagrant. Pursuing a committal *ex mero moto* was a highly exceptional course to follow, particularly in family cases. The judge should always take time to pause for reflection, and should give an opportunity for the Official Solicitor to be invited to represent the child, or to report on the child's position. If the Official Solicitor saw a potential conflict, but the contempt was none the less clear and flagrant, there was no reason why the Attorney General should not be asked to prosecute the committal as *amicus curiae*.

All remedies should be exhausted before the weapon of committal was wielded. The danger in initiating a committal which the affected party did not seek was that the judge was at risk of being seen to be acting to preserve his own dignity and to punish for the affront to him. That would distort the justification for the committal power of committal, which existed only to serve the ends of justice.

In the instant case the judge had misdirected himself and was wrong to have proceeded on his own motion, and the committal application would accordingly be struck out.

KATE O'HANLON,

Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

rehnquist, n.

wakes to find that Myron "has not only removed the delicate honeypot of every real American boy's dream but replaced it with a

thing! A ghastly long thick tubular object... This rehnquist has got to go!"

In 1987, Vidal replaced it with "cock" - less prescient than usual, for this crew of

Angry with secular Britain, Muslims burnt *The Satanic Verses*. Ten years later, both sides have learnt respect. By Paul Vallely



Bradford rises above the ashes

Ten years ago today, a group of angry Muslims took a copy of Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Satanic Verses*, and burned it in front of Bradford City Hall. Hardly anyone noticed at the time. But two weeks afterwards, in Iran, the Ayatollah Khomeini declared a fatwa to the effect that Rushdie's blasphemy warranted the death penalty.

Suddenly the Bradford book burning became a symbol of a new, oppressive, obscurantist threat to Western values of tolerance and freedom of speech. So much so that when Iran lifted the death threat last year, Rushdie was asked at the ensuing press conference whether he felt free to visit Bradford. In the intervening years there have been considerable changes in the Muslim community, and in society's attitude to it, as I found when I went back to the city to see those who had put the match to the offending pages. Bradford's Muslims, it transpires, have changed. But for better or worse?

The most impressive of Rushdie's opponents a decade ago was an angry young man named Shabbir Akhtar. He had arrived in Bradford from Pakistan at the age of eight but had gone on to study philosophy at Cambridge and had wrong-footed many in the liberal camp by using their own language and methodology to argue in defence of fundamentalist certainties.

The received wisdom was that Muslims had no idea what they were unleashing when they lit the pages of Rushdie's novel. "The people involved were almost certainly ignorant of the tremendously emotive effect this would have on those brought up in the dominant Western culture, with its memories of Nazi Germany, and a deeply held belief in free speech," So said the report written after the 1995 Manningham riots, which brought Muslim indignation to a boil in Bradford six years after the Rushdie affair broke. In India and Pakistan, it said, the burning of flags, books and effigies are common forms of protest. "There is little understanding, within large sections of the Muslim communities, of the effect this incident had on white opinion," it said.

It was not entirely true. "I thought there would be outrage," says Shabbir Akhtar, sitting in the front room of his small terraced home in Manningham. "but we were impotent and needed a dramatic ritual protest. The comparisons with Hitler were inappropriate; he was in power and burned many books; we were powerless and burned one copy."

The media portrayal of the burning as a dark and medieval act was ill-judged to England, as recently as the end of the 19th century, literature judged to be seditious or blasphemous was burned in lieu of the author, by the public hangman.

"The real resentment was not against the act but at these 'foreigners' taking

liberties in someone else's country." Far from being an assault on the values of liberal democracy, he insists, Muslims were appealing to them. "Freedom of speech is not absolute; society is happy to constrain it to prevent racial violence. But many secular liberals suspended their values because they were dealing with a culture of which they had an instinctive dislike," he says. "They betrayed their own commitment to trying to understand the other point of view. They became liberal fundamentalists."

come. But the issue has ceased to be a live one, says one of the others prominent on the Bradford Council of Mosques in the book-burning days. "The Rushdie affair surfaced two issues," says Iftisah Ahmed, now director of the city's Racial Equality Council. "One was the right of minorities to live according to their faith without being ridiculed. The other was that writers and publishers must have a sense of responsibility in exercising their freedom of speech. Both these have been acknowledged, by and large. The rest of society is

"There is an increased willingness to talk about all this openly," he says, "and to acknowledge diversity instead of trying to affect an artificial unity. Diversity is now seen as healthy and to be cherished, not hidden or condemned."

There are signs that this is a two-way process, with the rest of society responding. Locally, Muslims have more influence in the main political parties. Nationally the Government has conceded the principle that Muslim schools merit state funding just as Catholic or Jewish ones do. No one is saying the problems are over. But ask Khadija Hussain, Bradford bus driver, what is the biggest difficulty facing Bradford Muslims and he replies: "The city centre is dying, businesses moving out, whole streets are empty of shoppers now."

This is like unemployment, poor housing, overcrowding and underachievement in schools – may hit the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities disproportionately hard. But these are problems shared with the rest of society. There may be a culture of desperation, says Shabbir Akhtar, but it's not restricted to Muslims.

Currently, they are indignant over the Government's response to the detention of five British Muslims in Yemen – which they compare unfavourably with its reaction at the trial of the two British nurses in Saudi Arabia.

The older generation is uncertain what to do with children who are not just growing away from them, but doing so in such fragmenting ways. But there is a new confidence among the Bradford Muslims which cannot be denied. It would be foolish to predict that there will be no more burning of books, but the odds on it must be much reduced.

'Now there are three groups: one very religious and introspective, another secular and pleasure-seeking, while the third drifts in the middle'

Ten years on, he feels there would be no need to burn the book now. "The whole Rushdie affair was about exclusion," he says. "Today we would have other ways of protesting. The English intelligentsia is much more open now – inter-faith groups, academics, TV producers, newspaper editors and others are more open to listening. Then people thought the Muslim protest was mad, now they just think it was mistaken; in a culture where religion is taken so lightly, that's a big step forward." Not that Rushdie should expect a wel-

coming a much greater sensitivity." This, coupled with the rise of a new generation of professionals in business, education and the civic life of the city, is making Muslims more frank and open about dealing with issues such as the role of women in Islam. "A recent series of articles in the *Telegraph and Argus* (the local paper) on forced marriages was written in terms we can live with," Iftisah says. "We know we have to face these issues in the long-term relationship between the Muslim community and the rest of society."

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POETIC LICENCE THE OZYMANDIAS CLOCK

A desert site is being sought to locate a giant clock which will run for 10,000 years. The aim of the project is to build a global monument that will stimulate people to think beyond the normal concept of time. Sites in Egypt, Jerusalem, China and Nevada are being considered.

The first one thousand years or so
Were harder to portray
The clock would move its hands each year
And tick just once a day

And as the sands were washed away
Numberless craft took to the sky
Whose occupants gazed down to see
An ancient caravanserai

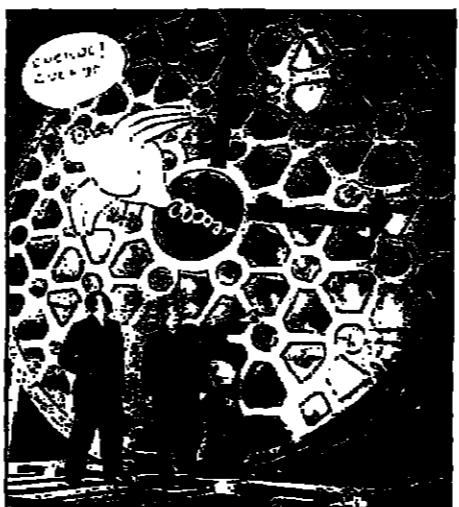
It faded Pepsi Cola sign
And petrol pumps millennia-dry

Later, a psychic railway ran
Disgorging tourists every night
Pale ghosts of men stared at its face
Then glided off in single file

While silent in the moonlight there,
Emaciated desert dogs

Ears down and cringing at the sight
Stunk out into the desert night

The clock still moved its hands each year
And ticked just once a day
The first one thousand years or so
Were harder to portray



CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

No. 2722 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
COMPANIES COURT
COMMERCIAL COURT
IN THE MATTER OF NORTHERN
VENTURE TRUST PLC

IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is proposed on the 2nd December 1998 before the High Court of Justice for the commercial court at the Royal Courts of Justice, London, EC4N 7NA, that the Company's reduction of its share premium account by the amount of £1,000,000,000.00 and the cancellation of 100,000,000 shares of 1 pence each, will be made by Order of the Court.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Company's reduction of its share premium account should not affect the date of becoming in person or by proxy of the shareholders entitled to receive dividends or other distributions. Subject to payment of the required charge for the same.

For the Company
S.J. Berwin & Co.
222 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8HJ
Ref: 478/98/42/CP/27/98 (Copy
for the above-named Company)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
COMMERCIAL COURT
COMMERCIAL COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
PRODUCT FINISHING
(ADMINISTRATION)
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of Product Finishing Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, will be held at the offices of Poulson and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M1 1LR on 18th January 1999 at 10.00 am, for the purpose mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

It is intended, if thought fit, to appoint a liquidator.

1. To consider, and, if thought fit, to approve the proposals of the Administrator for achieving the purpose or purposes mentioned in section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

2. To consider, and, if thought fit, to establish a Committee of Creditors.

3. To consider, and, if thought fit, to approve the Administrator's remuneration on a fixed scale basis.

4. To consider, and, if thought fit, to approve the Administrator's remuneration on a fee per hour basis.

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It is every parent's nightmare to lose a child. Geneviève Jurgensen lost two in a car crash. How did she cope? By Louise France

'I know I will never recover'

The French newspaper headline is brutally informative: 50 people die on roads in France on New Year's Eve, it says. Geneviève Jurgensen, a 52-year-old journalist and author, rolls her eyes heavenwards. A poised, well-dressed woman, sitting in her elegant high-ceilinged apartment in Paris, she's all too familiar with the statistics. Fifteen years ago her daughters, Mathilde and Elise, were killed on a French road. They were seven and four. They lost their lives before they'd lost more than two milk teeth.

In Britain there are 3,500 deaths on the roads annually. In France the figure is 9,000. Geneviève Jurgensen knows precisely how the families of the new year fatalities will be feeling. For them there will be, she says, with a sad shrug of her shoulders, "hell and flames".

Eleven years after her daughters died, Geneviève Jurgensen started writing a

'My first thought was, this is beyond human strength. This is beyond what I can face'

book about Mathilde and Elise and how she and her husband, Laurent, survived their deaths. Lucid, moving and beautifully written, *The Disappearance* was a best-seller in France and has just been published in Britain.

She smiles, and says she would prefer to talk about something else. "I love to laugh," she says, "I am, naturally, a happy person. I'd much rather talk about Shakespeare and poetry. But now I know – and perhaps it took writing this book to admit it – that whatever happens to me is related to my children's deaths. I have abandoned the idea that one day I will recover. This is now how I understand life."

On 30 April 1980 her daughters were being driven to see their paternal grandmother by Geneviève's sister-in-law and husband, Aline and Christian. The couple's baby sat between the two sisters in the back seat. A 22-year-old Belgian, who had been drinking, overtook them and rammed into the side of the car. Aline controlled the vehicle and brought it to a halt on the hard shoulder, only to find that the collision had catapulted Mathilde and Elise out of the open window. They were already dead when Christian found them, 16 metres apart on the farm.

That night when the telephone rang their mother thought nothing of it. She was absent-mindedly glancing at herself in the mirror when she heard that her two children, her only children, had been killed. Softly she shut the girls' bedroom door. No one expects their children to die before they do. Least of all do parents expect to have their whole family wiped out. "My first thought was, this is beyond human strength," she says now. "This is beyond what I can face."

People said that one day she would write about it, but for 10 years she was repulsed by the idea. "Writing would have been a way of mastering the pain and I didn't want that. I loved them so much I didn't want the pain to fade."

But in 1991, when a friend who hadn't



met her daughters asked her about them, she sensed in him a humanity to which she responded. They agreed that she should write letters about the lives of Mathilde and Elise, the things they said, how their characters were beginning to form, the way she buttoned up their red and blue raincoats on the day she saw them for the last time. Letters, too, about their deaths, and about the "hell and flames" that came afterwards. She wrote the letters when she felt like it, in longhand and on whatever notepad came to hand. Her friend did not reply but he treasured each one and, two years later, he remarked that they had begun to sound more like a diary than an exploration of mourning; they decided that it was time to stop. These letters became the basis for her book.

Almost a year to the day after the tragedy – with "unprecedented luck" as she puts it – she gave birth to her third daughter, Elvire. Later another child came along, a boy. Elvire is 17 now; her brother, Gauthier, is 14. Without them it is too awful to speculate where Geneviève would be today. With them, she is remarkably articulate on life touched by death.

"The first year is the worst," she says. "You go through each of the four seasons remembering what you were doing the year before." She saw her children's faces wherever she went. She would bellow Mathilde's name just to hear the very sound of it again. She would look at teenagers in wonderment and ask herself how their mothers had been able to keep them alive.



Geneviève Jurgensen: 'The first year is the worst.' Above, the daughters she'll never forget, Elise, left, and Mathilde

Fervently, she says, she read every letter of condolence. For people who were too embarrassed to approach the couple, she has only scorn. The parent of one of her daughter's classmates would stand behind her in the queue at the baker's but never spoke to her again – "It was more important for her not to look foolish than to go out to a mother who no longer had any children." It still angers her.

Robbed of their roles as mother and fa-



ther, the Jurgenses discovered that they now needed to be parented. "We relied on friends, who would say, 'You're coming with us to the theatre tonight.' Or, 'No, you can't go home alone'." One of the worst aspects was the feeling that people put them on a pedestal. "We were like statues, honoured for our bravery. Yet we felt so alone. We needed people to be themselves and yet they could not be."

Faced with such devastation many re-

lationships would have collapsed, but the marriage has remained strong. Laurent and Geneviève met in their early twenties – "It was love at first sight" – and it was the desperate desire to return to the happiness they had known with their young family that sustained them in the early Eighties. "Both of us were conscious that we would have preferred it if one of us had died rather than the girls... But we had been very happy, and happy people are better equipped to start again. We were desperate to have children and find the same happiness again. Making love when you want another child is close to instinct. We would turn to each other frantically, clinging to one another."

Geneviève needs people to know what she is feeling, whether she is happy or sad. Laurent, an architect, is more private (though pleased that his daughters were being remembered by his wife's book) he was acutely apprehensive about the exposure. But they instinctively agreed about the way to mourn – "without restraint" as she puts it – and this bond sustained them. "Although you have to remember that your sorrow is not the only one. You live with someone who is sad too."

She is still lost for words to describe her feelings about the man who drove the car that caused the accident. He was fined, but allowed to keep his licence. In 1983 Geneviève set up a pressure group with another mother who had lost her daughter in a traffic accident. Drink-driving and speed-

France but the campaign has been instrumental in reducing fatalities from 13,000 a year to the current figures. She took part in every debate about "la violence routière" (road violence) – a phrase that the charity invented, and which has become part of the French language. In 1992 she had a private meeting with President Mitterrand to instigate a points system on French driving licences. The nation's truck-drivers went on strike in protest, but a law was finally passed. The group also won a campaign to lower the allowable levels of alcohol in blood.

Nearly 20 years on, Geneviève worries about the effect of the deaths on her two living children. Looking back on Elvire's early life she believes that although she saved her sanity, it was too soon to have another child. "For months I was in another world still." It wasn't until Gauthier came along that she began to recover.

If Mathilde, the eldest, had lived she'd be 26 now. Sometimes her mother imagines what her life would have been like. She'd have met a man she loved by now,

'I have abandoned the idea that one day I will recover. This is now how I understand life'

she thinks, just as Geneviève did. Perhaps she'd be getting married. She watches her friends preparing for their daughters' weddings and wonders what it would have been like for her. "I think Elvire feels a pleasure to accomplish the good things in life for three girls – herself and her two sisters. I apologise. But I this is the mother she has. She can't change it."

Gauthier started reading his mother's book but put it down after three pages. "He said it was just too sad." Elvire has read it, and set up a young person's version of Geneviève's pressure group. Is she proud? "Proud, but annoyed too," she says. "We've given enough. I would like to move on."

And indeed, every time a new day dawns their lives do move on. But it's difficult. Four years ago they moved across the Seine to their apartment near the Eiffel Tower. It was a wrench. "Every tree, every corner, every person who knew me knew my children too. Now I have no reminders." Thirteen months ago Geneviève's mother died, and with her another link with the past.

She expects that in about five years' time Gauthier will leave home and then she and Laurent will be alone again. "I worry that it is then that my older children will come back into my memory," she says. "I still miss them, but I am no longer sure what I miss. It was all so long ago and they were so young."

"I feel as though someone is faintly crying inside me. In a way my life is waiting for the day when I can meet them again. When I die I can take my place beside them. "I do have a happy life, however gross it seems to say it. But I went back to being 15 again and someone said, this is the deal: You will have two children; you will lose them; you will have a happy life afterwards – I have said 'No thank you. Keep it all!'"

'The Disappearance' (Flamingo, £12.99). Geneviève Jurgensen will speak at the French Institute, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW1, 19 Jan at 6.30pm. Free

Is it OK for men to kiss each other?

Jon is friends with a man who has two children and who believes in hugs and kisses for both boys and girls. Jon's wife kisses everyone when they meet; Jon kisses everyone except the father, who he shakes by the hand. Is there any other gesture he could make to show closeness, without embarrassing them both?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

The reason that deciding how to greet people can make one cringe these days is simply because the customs are in a complete state of flux. Fifty years ago sons called their fathers "Sir" and shook their hands on meeting; not hugs between men are commonplace. If my friends are anything to go by, kisses on the cheeks and even kisses on the lips are quite the norm, though I have to say that when it comes to lips I usually aver my mouth at the last minute, like a baby when you try to offer it a final mouthful of food. Cheeks, yes lips, no. (Secretly, as an upright Englishwoman, handshakes suit me.)

But as far as men go, probably the average state of play at the moment is that fathers and sons hug, and so do young men and close friends. Handshaking men are allowed to hug on special occasions, like at funerals or weddings. But recently, observing how men react when the meet has thrown up some weirdly different behaviour.

There's the slap on the shoulder, there's the whack on the back, or even a bit of hair-mussing. (This is a tremendously peculiar one. Imag-

ine if you were a woman, and a girl-friend came up to you, extended her painted fingernails, and proceeded to muss up your hair. You'd be livid. However, some men see it as a sign of affection.)

Then there's an extraordinary American meeting ritual, in which one American punches the other on the chest, and the other reels back jokingly, bouncing about, making boxing movements. Utterly baffling.

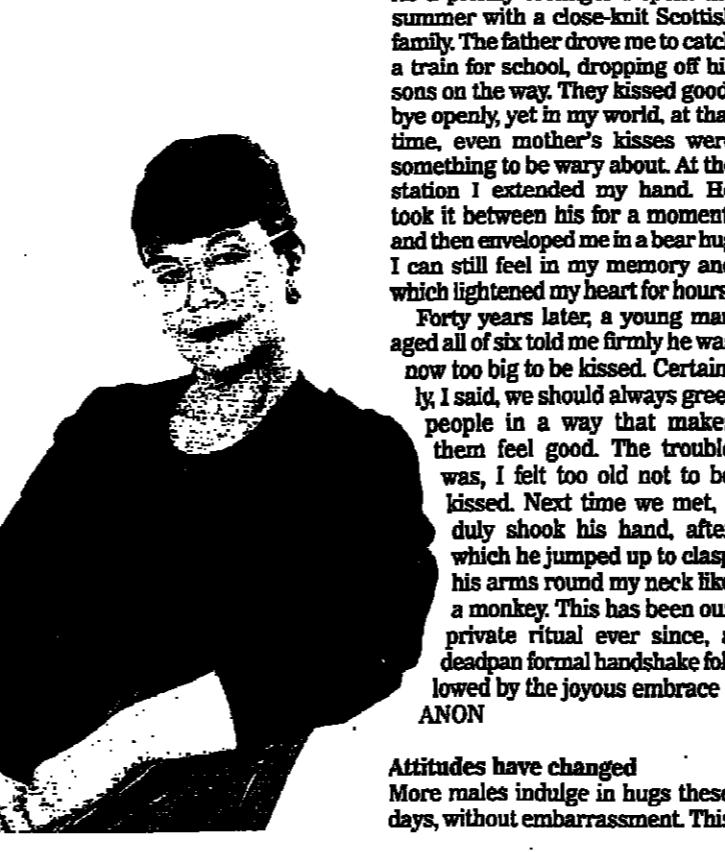
Some reasons given for our formality may include the fact that we live in a cold climate, and our beastly weather doesn't encourage large, expansive gestures; or that we live on an island and are crucially aware of our limited space.

But those reasons don't wash with me. I think the great anxiety of Englishmen is that if they embrace too closely they might be thought to be gay. Continentals, who are much easier with their sexuality, or at least appear to be, have far fewer hang-ups about greeting other men. They kiss each other to bits, hug, and even long after the greeting is over, one may still have his arm around the shoulder of the other.

Of course, if they don't meet regularly it would be about 2005 before they reach this stage. But by then the customs of how to greet other will, hopefully, be thoroughly sorted out.

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



Do what feels right

As a prickly teenager I spent the summer with a close-knit Scottish family. The father drove me to catch a train for school, dropping off his sons on the way. They kissed goodbye openly, yet in my world, at that time, even mother's kisses were something to be wary about. At the station I extended my hand. He took it between his for a moment, and then enveloped me in a bear hug. I can still feel it in my memory and which tightened my heart for hours.

Forty years later, a young man aged all of six told me firmly he was now too big to be kissed. Certainly, I said, we should always greet people in a way that makes them feel good. The trouble was, I felt too old not to be kissed. Next time we met, I duly shook his hand, after which he jumped up to clasp his arms round my neck like a monkey. This has been our private ritual ever since, a deadpan formal handshake followed by the joyous embrace ANON

Attitudes have changed. More males indulge in hugs these days, without embarrassment. This

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

need not involve a kiss, even if cheeks touch. Overcome your prejudice, and give your friend a hug!

ROBIN BUTTERELL

Chester

No one will be offended

My Albanian husband was brought up to kiss his male friends and relatives on each cheek whenever they meet. When greeting my male friends or relatives, he forgets they

are not of his ethnic background and has usually kissed them before they realise what's happening.

Often I have needlessly held my breath, awaiting horrified expressions. People are either so involved in flurries of hugging and kissing that they don't realise who's doing what, or they look flattered by his affection! So go on, show some of yours!

SOPHIE DHRAMI

London

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,
My 24-year-old son has never stuck at anything. Although he's extremely clever, he left school without taking any A-levels. He's done a variety of courses – a foundation course at art school, and a business management course which he dropped out of. He started a course of art history, which I paid for, but he left after one term. Now he just stays at home, gets up late and watches TV. I feel him but don't give him money. I suspect he gets it from a bit of

drug-dealing. His father wants to throw him out, but I feel he'll get deeper into drugs and end up in prison. What can I do?
He's a lovely person in himself.
Yours sincerely, Anne
Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Please send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk – giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

Courts should recognise that rape victims are not there to be tried. By Grania Langdon-Down

Asking for fairness

In expected the prosecutor to be on my side, but he didn't even introduce himself to me before the case," recalls Jessica, bitterly disillusioned by the criminal justice system. After she was raped by her ex-husband, her fear that he might assault her again gave her the courage to see her complaint through to trial - only then to see him acquitted.

Jessica, 36, who has two small children, has nothing but praise for the way the police dealt with the investigation and the help offered by her local rape crisis centre - all of which made the court process even more of a let-down.

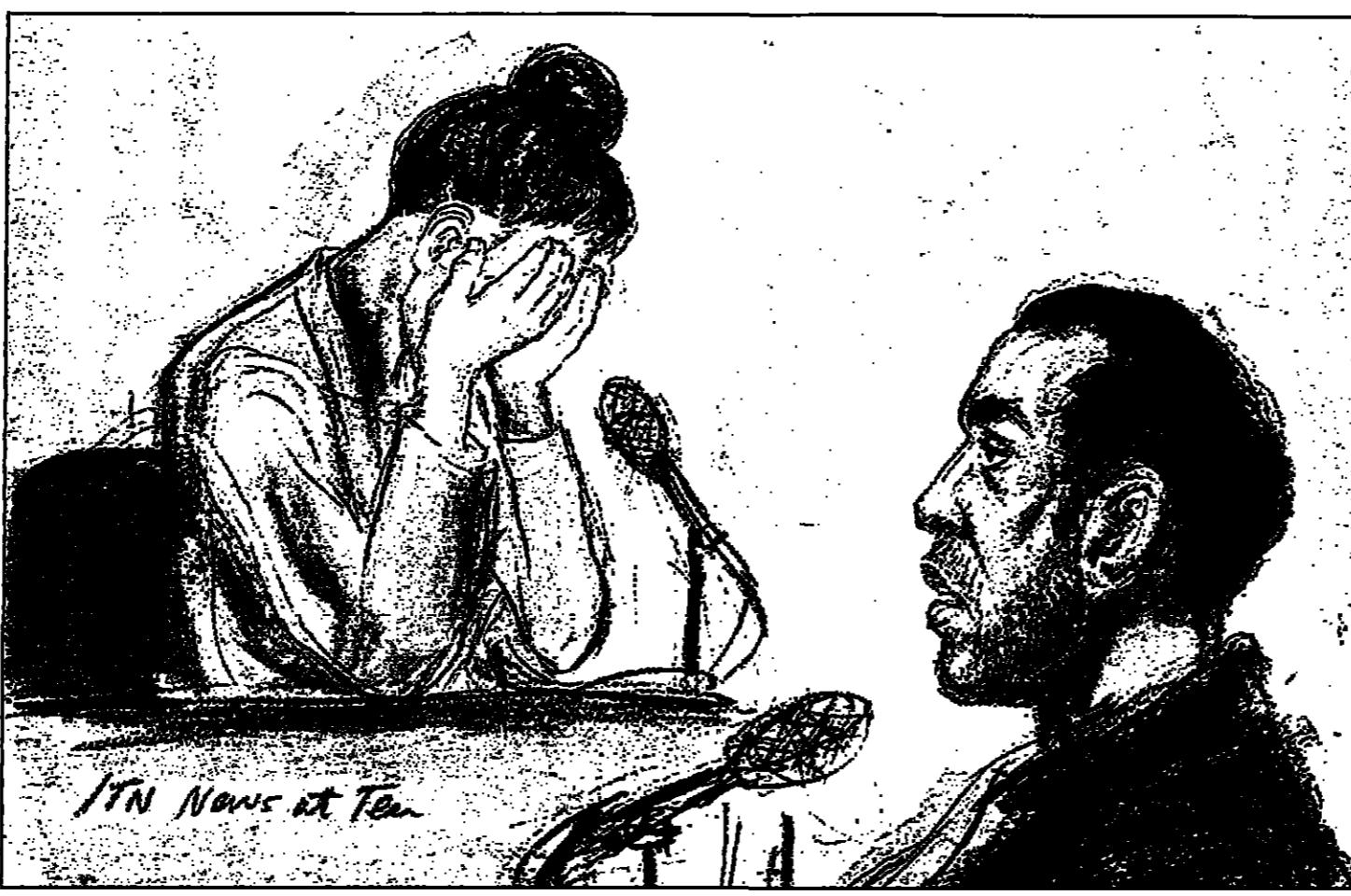
"I was shocked and dismayed that when the defence started telling lies about me, and his friends were called to give character evidence for him and against me, suggesting that I was a slag, the prosecutor didn't leap to his feet and challenge what was being said." It went on in this vein right up to the closing speeches. The defence lawyer, who was very clever, suggested that I had asked for it, suggested that I liked a bit of rough. The prosecutor didn't disabuse the jury of this even during his closing speech.

"What was really surprising was that though he was on trial, I was the one who was being condemned. I asked myself after the acquittal whether, if I had had someone who knew the story, who had talked it through with me beforehand and who knew what the defence barrister's tactics were likely to be, there would have been a verdict of guilty."

The rate of the prosecution is one of the factors being considered in a Home Office study into why the conviction rate for rape has dropped dramatically - from 24 per cent in 1985 to 10 per cent in 1996 - despite a three-fold increase in the number of rapes recorded by the police over the same period.

David Magson, assistant chief crown prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in Yorkshire, has been liaising with the Research Centre on Violence, Abuse and Gender Relations at Leeds Metropolitan University to set up a pilot course to train prosecutors in such cases. He says that the drop in the conviction rate has to be seen in the context of the number of cases now coming to trial which would not even have been investigated 20 years ago.

"You cannot necessarily take the fact that there are now more ac-



The rape victim in the trial of Ralston Edwards broke down as he cross-examined her in court

Enterprise News

quittals as being a failure of the whole system. But I think you can say that there is a greater number of acquittals in rape cases than in other sorts of cases and, yes, we need to look at that," he concedes.

He adds that rape and sexual assault cases are supervised by CPS lawyers with at least 10 years' experience, and cases are presented in court by independent counsel.

"Part of the course will be aimed at increasing awareness of the mainly male counsel so that they do not make the same assumptions that you sometimes hear judges making," explains Magson.

Another aim of the course is to ensure that prosecutors robustly challenge attempts by the defence to cross-examine complainants on their past sexual history. Magson says: "That is quite clearly a duty of the prosecuting counsel. One of the purposes of this exercise is to educate prosecutors so that they are fully aware of all the relevant legislation and decided case law that

goes towards protecting the victim."

That will include proposals under the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill that evidence of or questioning about a complainant's sexual behaviour will not be admissible as evidence of whether he or she consented to the offence, unless a judge decides that it relates to a specific instance of fact within 24 hours of the alleged assault, and that its main purpose is not to impugn the witness's character.

The court process has been made even more harrowing for some rape victims who have had to face being cross examined in court by their alleged attacker. Ralston Edwards was jailed for life after he cross-examined his victim for six days, a case which has led to a change in the law to prevent alleged rapists questioning victims.

Concern over the effectiveness of some rape prosecutions prompted the research centre to set up its pilot course offering prosecutors expert training in dealing with the special

circumstances that surround rape and sexual assault cases.

The course, which is due to start this spring in Leeds, involves three two-hour seminars covering latest research, changes in legislation, trial preparation, dealing with witnesses, cross-examination techniques and the Appeal Court process. Julie Bindel, assistant director of the research centre, says that the course, which is being designed with the close co-operation of the CPS in Yorkshire, will be evaluated to show whether it results in more convictions. Depending on the results, there are hopes that it may eventually be funded nationally by the Home Office.

"We are not suggesting that prosecutors do not know how to do their job. What we want to do is give them the latest thinking on forensic evidence, courtroom techniques and current research so that they can prosecute these cases more effectively."

"Prosecutors are the people who

have to educate juries about rape myths - that there are somehow 'deserving' and 'undeserving' victims, that marital or acquaintance rape is not as damaging as rape by a stranger - and that means being alive to the influence of their own prejudices," says Bindel.

Speakers on the course include Fiona Mason, forensic psychiatrist at Broadmoor, Jennifer Temkin, professor of law at Sussex University, Helen Grindrod QC, an experienced prosecutor, and barrister Vera Baird, author of *Rape in Court*, a critique of rape trials, published last year.

Vera Baird says that the Bill will also allow evidence regarding sexual behaviour to be admitted to rebut evidence called by the prosecution about the complainant, so it is essential that prosecutors are trained to avoid that happening. She says: "It is no more to the Crown's advantage to show that the witness is a model of virtue than it is to the defence to show that she is a tart. They are two sides of the same error."

depend mostly on the attitude of the judges to their new role.

The Government hopes that the effect of the new Act will be to create a human rights culture in the UK. To achieve this, the start date for the Act has been delayed until 2000 so that the Judicial Studies Board can finish training judges,

magistrates and tribunal members in human rights law. A close scrutiny of some of the decisions in our courts over the past 25 years suggests that the £5m cost will be well worth it.

But a human rights culture cannot be imposed from the top. The Act is unlikely to succeed without a public awareness campaign. The Pinochet case and those following - including the rehearing later this month - will keep the issue of human rights in the public eye for only a limited period.

A good example of an effective awareness campaign comes from South Africa, where the human rights provisions of the new constitution were drafted only after full consultation with the public. When it became law millions of copies were printed (many in cartoon form, for those with reading difficulties). No such promotion is envisaged for the UK's Human Rights Act.

The claim by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, that the Act will create a "new and better relationship between the Government and the people" is unlikely to be realised if implementation is left to the judges and lawyers.

Keir Starmer is a barrister at Doughty Street chambers specialising in human rights

Human rights in the balance

HUMAN RIGHTS come in many shapes and sizes. Resolving the apparent conflict between General Pinochet's claim to sovereign immunity and the rights of his alleged victims to justice is not difficult from a human rights perspective. The case against Pinochet, as set out in the Spanish request for his extradition, is that after the military coup in 1973 the Dina or secret police, who were answerable to Pinochet, engaged in torture and hostage-taking.

Confronted with allegations of such inhumanity, few would dissent from the ill-fated House of Lords decision that such acts cannot be regarded as a function of a head of state such as to attract immunity from criminal proceedings.

But finding the right balance between human rights and democracy is more difficult.

As the House of Lords was hearing the Pinochet case, the Human Rights Act 1998 slipped on to the statute book. It gives effect in our law to the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Under the Act, it will be unlawful for any public authorities - including central and local government, the police and even courts - to violate convention rights. The issue of human rights will affect all contact between the individual and the state.

The ingenious feature of the Act is the way it attempts to balance the democratic right of the majority to exercise political power with the democratic need of individuals and minorities to have their human rights secured.

The Act aims to give the courts as much leeway as possible to protect rights, short of power to ignore Acts of Parliament. All legislation is to be interpreted as far as possible in a way that is compatible with convention rights. If that is not possible, the higher courts will adjudicate; then it will be for Parliament to decide whether there should be legislation.

The declaration of incompatibility is therefore a crafty device intended to sidestep the controversial issue of parliamentary sovereignty. Whether it succeeds will



Identify your career goal - and go for it George Hunter

Make the workplace work for you

It's your life, and your career takes up a big part of it. So why waste time following the wrong track? By Meg Carter

ARE YOU THE kind of person who always means to sort out your working self, but never quite gets round to it? Maybe it's a better salary you're after - or more responsibility, a change of career, or simply a better balance between work and play.

"All of us have got to take charge of our careers and take responsibility for what we want from an organisation - more than ever before," says Angela Edward, policy adviser at the Institute of Personnel and Development. Working life throughout the Nineties, she believes, has been epitomised by a single concept: "empowerment". Of course, many employers have used this term as a useful way of packaging downsizing and job insecurity. But there are ways of making the current employment climate work in your favour, she says.

The first step is to identify your goal - and the key here is objective self-analysis and honesty. "If you feel like you need a fresh start, ask yourself why. Only by being completely straight with yourself can you begin to work what you want to change, and how to bring it about."

Every Nineties employee can gain from practising this, agrees Alan Margolis, managing consultant at Hampshire Training Consultants. "Otherwise you end up working to someone else's agenda - to help someone else achieve their goals." In fact, claims motivational expert Jürgen Wolff, although it's an obvious starting point, it's one where many of us go wrong and consequently give up. "One of the biggest problems many of us face is being stuck with old objectives. We foster an outdated image of ourselves. Ask yourself: is this something I still really want to do? And if it's not, don't be afraid to admit it, and move on." The next step is to develop a campaign of action. "Identify what

talents or skills you have and what you will need to get to achieve your goal," Ms Edward says. "Will you get these opportunities where you are now - or after - or more responsibility, a change of career, or simply a better balance between work and play?

Dividing your overall goal into a series of smaller, easier, and quicker-to-attain steps can help. "The step-by-step approach makes your goal more attainable," Mr Wolff advises.

Backing up your strategy by making practical changes on a daily basis is essential. If you want to be more assertive, for example, develop a more confident outward appearance. This will also help you prepare to ask for what you want.

"Visualising success is a useful trick. If you imagine doing what you really want to do - how you would feel, what you might say - you are more focused on it," he explains. "Imagine yourself running like Linford Christie: you might not end up racing as fast as him, but chances are you'll end up running faster than you did before."

Negative thinking is a common stumbling-block. To help overcome this, Mr Margolis advises modifying

Making the time needed to realise

your speech. "You can use language to fuel your engine," he explains. "Use 'I' instead of 'we', 'it' or 'people' to be seen as more decisive and direct. Use 'how', not 'why'. Don't say you 'can't' do something, say 'I can if...'. Use the situation to negotiate."

Failure typically comes as a result of being typecast by other people. "For all the talk of embracing change, people don't much like having it thrust upon them," comments Mr Wolff. "It can take time for people - even friends - to accept you in a new role. For some, then, it's best not to trumpet it, but to get on with what you want to achieve: quietly."

Alternatively, he adds, people can give up on their goals prematurely as a result of failing to understand the delicate balance of performance with expectation. "When you start on something new, such as learning a new language, it's exciting and you learn a lot. But after a while, performance begins to plateau and your expectations race ahead. This is the point when many people give up - when success is just around the corner. Understanding this relationship is the key to overcoming the desire to give up," he says.

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RESOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE

- Identify your goals and prioritise them. Make a list - putting it down on paper can help the thought process.
- Ask yourself: "How realistic are my goals?", "What do I need to do to achieve them?" "Am I willing to put in the time and effort?" Self-improvement comes at a price - are you prepared to pay it?
- When you have homed your list, draw up a plan of action. Break the process down into smaller, more achievable steps.
- Work on your goals on a daily basis, and monitor progress. Once you feel more confident about your decision, discuss your advancement with a colleague, friend or expert in the field - the two of you can offer each other constructive criticism, gentle encouragement and regular updates.
- It is vital to keep a flexible approach, since there are often unforeseen opportunities and pitfalls. Adaptable people tend to achieve what they want far more quickly than those who doggedly follow a plan of action they set down 18 months ago.

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

MARKS & SPENCER

Age: 114.

History: Russian refugee Michael Marks founded the company in 1884, in Kirkgate, a Leeds street market. Ten years later, he teamed up with Tom Spencer a cashier from a wholesale company, and established the Marks and Spencer Penny Bazaar. In the 1920s, the growing business adopted a then-revolutionary policy of buying direct from manufacturers, and in 1926 Marks and Spencer became a public company, registering the trademark "St Michael" two years later. In 1930, it opened its flagship store at Marble Arch, and during that decade began to sell food and set up a staff welfare department. When the war came, M&S was involved in running the clothing Utility Scheme. In the mid-1970s, it opened its first continental stores, and in 1988, it bought the American clothing company Brooks Brothers and Kings Super Markets, a US food chain. Mid-1990s, it launched its financial services.

Address: Headquarters are at Michael House, Baker Street, London W1.

Ambience: Renowned as a friendly environment with a high emphasis on team-work.

Vital statistics: There are now 470 stores employing 71,300 people, with a turnover of around £2bn per annum. Around a quarter of the UK adult population visits the stores each week. The company has quite an investment programme, too: £10m this year on community-related projects, plus a three-year £2.2bn scheme. There are more than 3,000 food lines on display, and company's Classics brand is the UK's fourth largest in cosmetics: it also has 33 per cent of the UK's sandwich market.

Training: M&S is recognised as one of the best trainers around, with emphasis on developing technical, managerial and personal skills.

Facilities: An abundance of staff canteens offering subsidised meals.

Who's the boss? Chairman Sir Richard Greenbury, also a patron of the Samaritans, who became chairman of the Israel-Britain Business Council in 1995.

RACHELLE THACKRAY



14/APPOINTMENTS

TEL: 0171 293 2222

FASTRACK, GRADUATE AND GENERAL

THURSDAY REVIEW
The Independent, 14 January 1999

FAX: 0171 293 2505



Higher Education Conferences

Driving Technology Transfer

A one-day international conference

Thursday 11 February 1999, QEII Conference Centre, London SW1

Technology and knowledge transfer is high on the Government's agenda as it seeks to develop a knowledge-driven economy. It is also increasingly important for UK universities as they seek to strengthen links with industry on a regional, national and international basis.

This one-day international conference will explore the benefits of technology and knowledge transfer for universities and consider the factors which influence its implementation. It will feature examples of successful approaches to technology transfer from the US, Germany, Israel, Asia and the UK. It will also present a report of a visit by eleven UK Vice-Chancellors and technology transfer managers to the US in November 1998 which was supported by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

Speakers include:

Lord Sainsbury of Turville

Minister for Science, DTI

Derek Barker Professor Howard Newby

Director of Projects, Office of Science and Technology (OST) Vice-Chancellor, University of Southampton

Ronald Cohen John Preston

Chairman, Apax Partners & Co Ventures Limited and Chairman DTI "Tech Stars" Steering Committee Co-Director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Entrepreneurship Centre and Senior Lecturer

Professor John Craven, Stuart Henderson

Vice-Chancellor, University of Portsmouth Head of UK Life Sciences, Arthur Andersen

Professor Philip Treleaven

Head, DTI International Technology Services Mission

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NATURAL RESOURCES CLUSTER CO-ORDINATOR

Salary range £28-£32,000 per annum

London WC2

The World Bank has launched a three year initiative for development co-operation between the corporate sector, the state and NGOs, entitled "Business Partners for Development" (BPD). In a fast-changing environment, it aims to study, support and promote examples of strategic partnerships between business, government and civil society which combine good business practice with the development of poor communities around the world.

One of four thematic "clusters," the Natural Resources Cluster is managed by a steering group composed of the World Bank Group, CARE International and participating companies. BP plc and CARE are the joint convenors. Field activities are undertaken through "focus projects" approved by the Steering Group and funded by member corporations.

Based at CARE International UK, the postholder will co-ordinate and administer the cluster's activities and core budgets, facilitate learning from focus projects, and promote the work of BPD and the Natural Resources Cluster.

The successful candidate will have at least 3 years experience in social development project management at field level, strong communications skills fitting a complex policy environment, a keen interest in corporate social investment and an understanding of the international development system. There will be some international travel.

The post is funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) as part of DFID's wider support for the initiative.

Suitable candidates should send a CV to the Personnel Manager, CARE International UK, Tower House, 8-14 Southampton Street, WC2E 7HA, or fax to: 0171 379 0543. For further details ring 0171 379 5247.

Closing date: 22nd January 1999
Interview dates: 29th January and 1st February 1999

To reduce recruitment costs, we regret that we do not write to applicants who are not shortlisted.

Charity Registration No 292500

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TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

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Phone 0181 960 4052 for an application pack. Closing date 5pm, Monday 1 February.

Brent Volunteer Bureau is Striving to be an EO Employer & Welcomes Applications from Members of Minority Groups & Cultures.

Charity No. 1069749

To advertise in this section please call Suzanne Monroe on 0171 293 2706.



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Cannock Chase Council is successfully spearheading the regeneration of former coalfield areas with substantial public private investment supported by the Single Regeneration Budget. The following posts offer the opportunity to contribute to this economic regeneration through the development of transport infrastructure and implementation of civil engineering projects in a District which boasts Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Group Managing Engineer (Projects)

226,535 - 228,464

We are seeking a person who will develop and lead a group which will undertake projects driven by needs, based on sound information and maximising resources while giving a flexible responsive service.

The group comprises a team of engineers and technical assistants delivering a wide range of municipal engineering projects.

The post would suit a strongly motivated individual with project engineering experience and management skills to lead a busy team working to tight deadlines.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 22nd January 1999

Group Manager (Transport)

226,535 - 228,464

The Council is seeking to develop an Integrated Transport Plan for the District. This vacancy has arisen as a result of establishing a new group to address transportation issues. In addition to strategy the postholder will lead a team in preparation of feasibility studies for travel and transported related schemes. The Council has a comprehensive programme with the County Highways Authority and is also directly responsible for a wide range of transport-related functions.

The post would suit a person with knowledge of transport planning and possessing management skills. A post graduate qualification in a transport-related field is desirable though not essential.

If you wish to discuss either post informally, please ring Richard Haisman, Head of Engineering, on: 01643 464594.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 29th January 1999

Planning and Property Services Division

Research and Information Officer £21,493 - £28,194 (Career Grade)
The Job - You will assist the Planning Division and other Directorates, giving advice and support on matters relating to bids for resources from both United Kingdom Government and European Union Programmes. You will also assist in the collection, analysis and interpretation of information to support bids and the implementation of and monitoring of key strategy documents including the adopted Local Plan.

The Person - You will be a graduate planner or a relevant discipline. Knowledge and interest in the analysis and interpretation of published statistics would be an advantage. Additional Benefits include - Casual car allowance, relocation package, assistance to study for a relevant qualification and payment of a professional fee.

If you would like an informal chat regarding the post, please telephone: 01643 462821 and ask for Mike Price, Local Plans and Policy Manager.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 22nd January 1999

If you are interested and would like to be considered for any of the above posts, please telephone: 01643 462813 (24 hour answering service) for an application form or write to: The Human Resources Management Unit, Cannock Chase Council, Civic Centre, Beechwood Road, Cannock, Staffs WS11 1BG.

THE COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER



REGIONAL OFFICERS / ASSISTANT REGIONAL OFFICERS

(5 posts: North West Coast, West Midlands, North Thames, Eastern, Southern Regions)

MSF, the multi-industry trade union organising members in Aerospace, Automobile, Engineering, Pharmaceuticals, along with the Finance, NHS and Voluntary Sectors - covering the whole of the UK and Ireland - has vacancies for five Full-Time Officials at Regional Officer/Assistant Regional Officer level in the Regions shown above. [For the Southern region post, the successful candidate will be expected to reside in Kent.] The salary for ROs is £27,367 pa and for the AROs £21,833 - both currently under review. A car will be provided. The Union is seeking to appoint trainee officers at ARO level but is prepared to make immediate appointment at RO level for suitable candidates.

Applicants should have experience in trade union organising [ideally with a good appreciation of the Organising Model methods] and collective bargaining, preferably in more than one industry or service. They will need to be able to demonstrate that they have the skills and competencies needed to meet the modern Organising role.

For further details please write or fax to: Martin Goodson at the MSF Centre, 33-37 Moreland Street, London, EC1V 8HA - Fax 0171 505 3030.

You can also E-mail him on: goodson@msf.org.uk.

Closing date for application is Friday, 29 January 1999.

MSF is striving to become an Equal Opportunities Employer

Challenging opportunities in fast growing electronics company

Coherent Technologies Limited has proven leadership in development and marketing of gateway products for industrial OEMs in remote data collection and AMR (automatic meter reading) area. We are small but fast growing and sell throughout Europe. We use state-of-the-art computer systems to run our business. The following are new positions carrying high levels of responsibility, often involving long working days, but providing real opportunities for exercise of initiative, contemporary professional skills and for career development.

Office Manager. This position is key to continuing growth of the company. You will have a degree and a minimum of three years experience in office administration and management. You thoroughly understand the business processes and are capable of developing an "paperless office" system, managing and operating computer based sales' office administration, procurement, administrative, stock control and information databases. Experience with Windows, NT, operation of computer databases, electronic mail and good typing skills are essential. You must have initiative and be able to plan development of the company's business systems. Occasionally you will be in sole charge of the company's office and therefore good management judgement, personal presentation and a confident manner are necessary.

Computer Software Engineer. We are seeking a graduate with a quality degree and a minimum of three years' industrial experience for a position of growing responsibility. Enhancement of our current product range of telephone modems and development of new products including ISDN will involve embedded systems development in 'C' with a small amount of assembler programming and systems and test development in 'C' or Windows NT. Experience of telecommunications, DSPs, real time operating systems and MFC would be advantageous.

Salary for each position is negotiable between £25,000 and around £33,000 p.a., depending on experience, but not limited for the right applicants. Salary increases are based on achievements, dedication and company growth and profitability. Your skills and remuneration will grow as the company grows. There is four weeks' paid holiday per year and medical insurance cover.

Send your CV stating how you meet our requirements to:

The Managing Director, Coherent Technologies Limited

2 Hardwicks Way, London SW18 4AJ

SENIOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORKER

COWES YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE
Overseas in England ... The Isle of Wight boasts one of the best climates in the British Isles with superb rural and coastal leisure opportunities. We have affordable, good quality housing, fast communication to the mainland and good schools striving to be ever better. We may be surrounded by the sea but are definitely not a backwater!

As the only off-shore LEA, the Island is served by a good youth service (Ofsted 1998). The Cowes Youth Centre is located 100 metres from the River Medina near to the town centre. We are seeking to appoint a Senior Youth and Community Worker who has vision, leadership and proven experience in youth work. Candidates will need both stamina and enthusiasm and lots of commitment. As a small, discrete and progressive Youth Service, the post offers valuable career-based experience with which to develop your career.

For an informal discussion, please contact Martin Rouse, Area Youth and Community Officer on 01983 528761 (mornings).

For an application pack, please contact the Education Personnel Section, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO31 1UD quoting Ref.YC73. Closing date for applications: 22 January 1999. Interviews will be held 11/12 February.

Car allowance payable

Telesales Advisers

SOUTH-WEST OF FRANCE

A leading edge and fast-growing Industrial and Services group is currently looking to recruit a number of skilled telesales professionals.

You have a higher qualification in business (university degree or college diploma) or related professional experience in telephone selling. Your responsibility for answering queries by telephone will also include building a privileged and individualized relationship with each client. Your efficiency and helpfulness will be shown in the choice of products you propose and the clarity of your explanations.

With an approachable and friendly temperament, the ideal applicant must also be fluent in French.

In return, we offer a very competitive salary, excellent promotion prospects and a specialised training course.

Please send your CV along with a covering letter and an up-to-date photograph to our consultant Mr Philippe LAFON, RH PARTNERS, BP 1288, 31047 Toulouse, France and consult http://www.rh-partners.com. Please note that all interviews will take place in Paris.

RH PARTNERS

HOTEL RESERVATIONS MANAGER

Salary £25,000 + Benefits

Established travel agency is currently seeking a highly motivated individual to manage the Reservations sector and work with a management team to drive the business forward into 2000 and beyond. Experienced in Tour Operating/Reservations, you must have managerial experience and strong leadership skills to motivate and organise a busy team. Educated to degree level with excellent written and oral Japanese and English - plus, essentially, another European language - you should also possess good commercial awareness and a thorough understanding of the Japanese travel industry.

Please apply with CV to: Ms H Kishigami, Euro-Japan Holidays Ltd, 93 Newman Street, London W1P 3LE

IT SALES SR ACCOUNT MANAGER

People in Computers is seeking a Sales professional for their growing London office.

You will have at least 3 years IT experience and have the ability to manage large accounts in the Banking, Insurance and Financial sectors.

A degree in IT is essential along with excellent references.

Salary circa £35,000+.

Call Joe Marshall at People in Computers on 0171 388 5566.

IT SALES

SCPR INTERVIEWERS REQUIRED FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

LONDON AND MAJOR TOWNS AND CITIES IN THE UK

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING RESEARCH is Britain's largest independent research institute and a registered educational charity. Much of our work is for Government departments, mainly involving developing policies for the welfare of the most deprived sections of society. Subjects include health, housing, education and employment, etc. This research is used to provide information to help develop social policy and future planning.

YOU NEED TO BE friendly, flexible, articulate and adaptable. You need to be able to work 3-4 days a week, mostly between 9am-5pm, but also able to work at weekends. A car and telephone are essential. No experience is necessary.

WE PROVIDE paid training including using a laptop computer, paid holidays. A graded pay structure. Travel expenses are reimbursed. We have a lot of regular work and are looking for people to work often, reliably and in some areas continuously.

We are also recruiting people who are fluent in English AND can read and speak either Hindi, Gujar

NEW FILMS

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Director: Mark Herman
Starring: Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine
Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) cannibalises her dead dad's record collection, perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations, then falls in with Michael Caine's impresario; a low-rent, Bermuda-shirted huckster with one rheumy eye on the big time, Brenda Blethyn trundles around in a hip-hugging mini-skirt as LV's mum, Ewan McGregor pops up as a simple pigeon-breeder, and seedy seaside cartoonery runs as a garish visual backdrop. Where Mark Herman's last film, *Brassed Off*, was a whole and solid effort, *Little Voice* proves altogether more bitty and piecemeal. For while the director does a decent spot of carpentry in remoulding Jim Cartwright's stage-play for the screen, the result still trades in gestures and caricature and is further hindered by tentative pacing. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from the rejuvenated Caine push it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE SIEGE (15)
Director: Edward Zwick
Starring: Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis
A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, *The Siege* winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. The nominal hook (Muslim terrorist bombing in New York) gets draped with all manner of garbled goings-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's gung-ho army renegade. Zwick desperately attempts to touch all the bases, but even the speedy, kinetic editing can't gloss over his film's messy muddle of perfunctory liberalism and noisy chest-beating. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

π (15)
Director: Darren Aronofsky
Starring: Sean Gullette, Mark Margolis

Aronofsky's pungent debut idles in a kind of ante-room between maths lesson and art class, as Sean Gullette's New York number-cruncher ponders a numerical code behind the holy Hebrew texts, and designer flourishes overrun the screen. The rhythm runs on a staccato beat - the tone is self-consciously ingenuous. What sustains π is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra, and the louche, too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill

PSYCHO (15)
Director: Gus Van Sant
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche
Homage or sacrilege? Photocopy or experiment? Whichever camp you fall into, Gus Van Sant's

shot-by-shot *Psycho* reconstruction is a bizarre undertaking. Here, the original's high-contrast black-and-white is dumped in favour of Edward Hopperish colour. Hetty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, Anne Heche for Janet Leigh, and Julianne Moore for Vera Miles. In the meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic; a pitch-perfect bit of movie mimicry which has a definite curiosity value without ever quite adding up to much more besides. File this one under "White Elephants". West End: Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG)
Director: Howard Hawks
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall
That immortal "You know how to whistle, don't you?" line aside, *To Have and Have Not* has come to be more highly regarded for its behind-the-scenes history than its narrative content. Conceived as a *Casablanca* cash-in, and irreverently adapted from what Hawks reckoned to be Hemingway's worst novel, this wartime drama is credited with getting Bogart (then an unhappily married megastar) with 19-year-old Bacall. The taut, proficient plot has Bogart's Martinique-based skipper sandwiched between the Vichy government and the Free French resistance. Hawks directs with a pointed, easy grace. West End: Curzon Soho

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ACID HOUSE (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

ANTZ (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as worker-ant "Z". West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Samir Makhmalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. Part docu-drama, part rites-of-passage fable, this is a luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, Renoir

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of waifs. Comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animalistic fairytale. West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister; plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. West End: Barbican Screen

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But opportunities for film are largely neglected in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Cinema, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon hawk and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. This is a big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller with a top-drawer cast including Jon Voight and Gabriel Byrne. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

MULAN (U)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chapie who lights out to a cod-impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon, Haymarket, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

shot-by-shot *Psycho* reconstruction is a bizarre undertaking. Here, the original's high-contrast black-and-white is dumped in favour of Edward Hopperish colour. Hetty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, Anne Heche for Janet Leigh, and Julianne Moore for Vera Miles. In the meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic; a pitch-perfect bit of movie mimicry which has a definite curiosity value without ever quite adding up to much more besides. File this one under "White Elephants". West End: Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

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THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Acid House (18)

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh. Debut director Paul McGuigan turns this into a bit of a triumph, adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales. A cracker, all told.



The Dream Life of Angels (18)
Erick Zonca's remarkable début draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Elodie Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

Mulan (U)
In Disney's animated tale, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from certain death in combat. This movie has it all, and is one of the most visually innovative films that Disney has ever made.

Out of Sight (15)
Steven Soderbergh's tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off previous Elmore Leonard adaptations, and boasts in Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney the swooniest cinematic pairing of the year.

My Name is Joe (15)
All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a recovering alcoholic (above).

ANTHONY QUINN AND XAN BROOKS

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Copenhagen (Cottesloe)

Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 27 Jan

The Tempest (Barbican Theatre)

David Calder is a magnificently querulous and authoritative Prospero in Adrian Noble's imaginative RSC staging. In rep to 4 Mar

Kafka's Dick (Piccadilly Theatre)

Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this uproarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in this revival by Peter Hall. To 26 Feb

Just Not Fair (Birmingham Rep)

Moving account by Jim Robinson of 18 years' wrongful imprisonment of the Bridgewater Four. Will be performed in rep with the equivalent prison testament. *De Profundis*, by Oscar Wilde (right). To 30 Jan



A Month in the Country

(Swan Theatre, Stratford)
A conjunction of two great artists and cultures. Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgenev's proto-Chekhovian comedy. To 20 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon

(Royal Academy)
"Life? Or Theatre?". Salomon's life in pictures. Her 405 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's haste before Auschwitz - an expressionistic operetta in three colours. To 17 Jan

**Neurotic Realism**

(Saatchi Gallery)
First instalment of Charles Saatchi's new, made-up art movement which, by a happy coincidence, consists entirely of works in his own collection. To 28 Mar

Chris Ofili

(Whitworth Gallery, Manchester)
This 1998 Turner Prize-winner (above) is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, Afros and black icons, and incorporating elephant dung. To 24 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones

(Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery)
This centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

Grinling Gibbons

(Victoria & Albert Museum)
The best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver, who made intricacy and the abundance of nature his trademark. To 24 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-907 0718)
Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
Enemy of the State 3pm,
6.10pm, 9.10pm Little Voice
1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
Psycho 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm,
3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-902 0418)
Baker Street
The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm,
4pm Star Trek: Insurrection
1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
What Dreams May Come
6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-902 0404)
Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth
2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Lock,
Stock & Two Smoking Barrels
1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.10pm,
3.45pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(071-351 4322)
Piccadilly Circus Hamanai
2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Turkish Bath 1.25pm,
3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
There's Something About Mary
1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0870-902 0042)
Leicester Square/Tottenham
Court Road 1.10pm, 4.10pm
The Boys 1.45pm, 8.45pm
Fire 2pm, 6.30pm

NOTTING HILL CORNET

(0171-727 6705)
Notting Hill Gate
Enemy of the State 3pm,
5.50pm, 8.50pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403)
Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Buffalo 6.15pm,
3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Tee Ed 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm The Government
1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm,
9.45pm La Vie Reversée
des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm,
6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0414)
Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.05pm,
3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9pm Little
Voice 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm,
4.05pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ♦ Harrow on the Hill. Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, 9.30pm. Little Voice 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm. The Mask of Zorro 11.25pm, 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm. The Prince of Egypt 11.45pm, 2pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm. Psycho 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm. Rush Hour 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm. The Siege 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 1.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm. What Dreams May Come 6.20pm, 8.50pm.

HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Holloway Road/Archway. Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.10pm, 5.50pm, 8pm, 8.35pm. Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm. The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 5pm, 7.55pm. The Prince of Egypt 1.05pm, 2.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.35pm, 8.25pm. Psycho 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5pm. The Siege 12.25pm, 3.0pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm.

ILFORD ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Gants Hill. Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm. Little Voice 1.50pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm. Psycho 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm. The Siege 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm.

KILBURN TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) ♦ Kilburn. The Age of Innocence 3pm. Little Voice 6.30pm, 8.45pm. (+ Short: Kings of Siam with 8.45pm performance only)

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: King's Enemy of the State 2.55pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm. Psycho 2.25pm, 5pm, 8.25pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 2.25pm, 5pm, 8.30pm.

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Highgate Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm. The Mask of Egypt 12.10pm, 3pm, 4.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm.

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 9pm. Psycho 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm. The Siege 1.50pm, 8.10pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm.

PURLEY ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley. Enemy of the State 4.45pm, 8pm. The Siege 5.10pm, 8.10pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 6.10pm, 8.35pm.

PUTNEY ABC (0870-9020401) BR: Putney. ♦ Putney Bridge. Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm. Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.10pm.

RICHMOND ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond. Enemy of the State 3pm, 5pm, 9pm. Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm. The Siege 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm.

ROMFORD ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford. Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm. Psycho 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm.

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007) BR: Richmond. The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 6.30pm, 9.30pm. The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.25pm. Psycho 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007) BR: Romford. Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm. Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm. The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Rush Hour 8.50pm. The Siege 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. What Dreams May Come 8.20pm.

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup. Psycho 4.45pm, 8.30pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm, 8.40pm.

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0170-907 0171) BR: Stockwell. Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm. Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm. The Prince of Egypt 2.25pm, 4.40pm. Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm. Rush Hour 7pm, 9.20pm. The Siege 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.15pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm.

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR: Streatham Hill. East Enemy of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm. Little Voice 1.35pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, The Prince of Egypt 2.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm. Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Rush Hour 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm. The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm. Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Rush Hour 8.50pm. The Siege 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. What Dreams May Come 8.20pm.

IPSWICH ABC (0541-555131) BR: Ipswich. Psycho 4.45pm, 8.30pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm, 8.40pm.

IPSWICH IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) My Name is Joe (15) 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm. Little Voice (15) 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm. The Eel (18) 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm. Casablanca (U) 6.15pm, 8pm. Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. What Dreams May Come 8.20pm.

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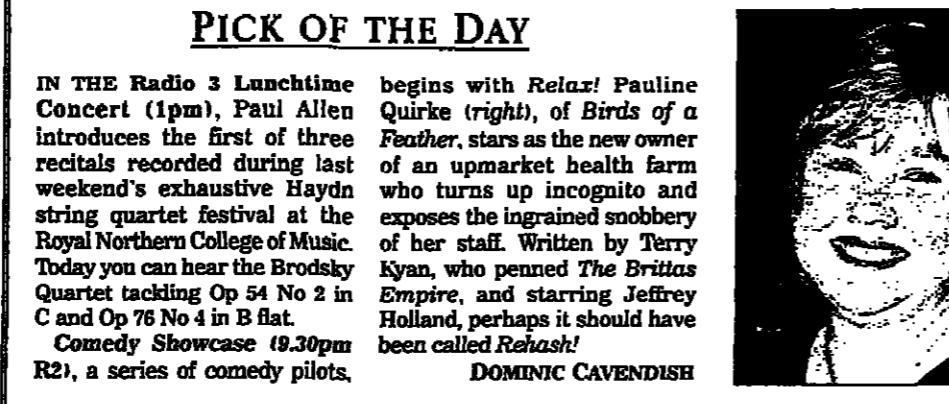
THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.30 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allan. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Barry Took's Comedy Classics: The Navy Lark. 9.30 Comedy Showcase: Relax, See Pick of the Day. 10.00 Gdns and Guitars. 10.30 Richard Alinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Rimsky-Korsakov.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: See Pick of the Day.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Ensemble.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3: Live from the Colston Hall, Bristol, introduced by Chris Wines. Alexei Lubimov (piano), Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment/Herbert Blomstedt.

Mendelssohn: Overture 'The Hebrides' (Fingals Cave); Schubert: Symphony No 2 in B flat.
8.45 Book of the Month. An extended review of one of the month's most interesting new publications in 'The Dragon in the Land of Snows', Tibetan historian Tsering Shakya, draws on a mass of oral and archival sources to uncover the story of Tibet's struggle to maintain independence. In the first such history from a Tibetan writer, he looks at the subsequent story of Chinese attempts at unification and at the background to current and future developments in the area.
8.35 Concert, part 2. Brahms: Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor.



PICK OF THE DAY

IN THE Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (1pm), Paul Allen introduces the first of three recitals recorded during last weekend's exhaustive Haydn string quartet festival at the Royal Northern College of Music. Today you can hear the Brodsky Quartet tackling Op 54 No 2 in C and Op 76 No 4 in B flat.

Comedy Showcase 9.30pm R2, a series of comedy pilots.

begins with *Relax!* Pauline Quirk (right), of *Birds of a Feather*, stars as the new owner of an upmarket health farm who turns up incognito and exposes the ingrained snobbery of her staff. Written by Terry Kyan, who penned *The Brittas Empire*, and starring Jeffrey Holland, perhaps it should have been called *Rehash*!

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

9.35 Postscript. Paul Neuberg continues his exploration of the Communist project which sought to use the arts to remould people's minds. 4: 'The Red Mask'. In the West, the biggest Communist movement of the thirties and forties was in France. The commitment of some prominent writers and artists to the cause involved radical shifts in creative agendas that were tenaciously resisted by others. Then, from 1956 onwards, revelations about the Stalinist regime rocked writers' and artists' faith in Communism throughout the world. 10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeaping and Chris de Souza introduce the second of two programmes of previously unheard treasures from Music Restored's 1998 recordings. This week's selection includes Dowland parsonage from Red Byrd, a Biber violin sonata performed by the Russian ensemble Musica Petropolitana, a Handel suite played by harpsichordist Laurence Cummings, and a cantata by Matthias Weckmann played by the Purcell Quartet and friends.

10.45 Night Waves. Paul Allen explores the increasingly complex ways we think about the human body in art and science and talks to speakers in this year's Darwin Lectures in Cambridge, which take the body as their theme.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Poulenc. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94MHz FM)
6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS; In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg.
9.30 Transplantations. (R)
9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; From Our Own Correspondent.
11.30 Old Dog and the Partridge.
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Hidden Treasures.
2.00 NEWS; The Archers.
2.35 Afternoon Play: Dogs.
3.00 NEWS; Call You and Yours: 0870 010 0444.
3.30 Tales from the Village.
3.45 This Sceptred Isle.
4.00 Word of Mouth.
4.30 The Material World.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 The Worriers.
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.25 Front Row. Francine Stock presents the arts programme, including a look at the art of turning birdsong into music, as revealed by the French composer Olivier Messiaen.
7.45 Lady Susan. Drama: 'Lady Susan' by Jane Austen. Adapted by Lavinia Murray, with Harriet Walter and Maggie Steer (4/10).
8.00 NEWS; Case History. Professor Roy Porter reconsiders Anthony Eden's performance during the Suez Crisis. Was the British prime minister taking a cocktail of drugs to help him to stay alert and to help him sleep? Eden's widow Lady Avon, historians and doctors provide insight.
8.30 The Week in Westminster. Peter Riddell of The Times takes a look

behind the scenes at Westminster.
9.00 NEWS; Testbeds. Vanessa Collingridge explores the technologies that will shape our future.
9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss ideas and events which have influenced our time.
10.00 NEWS; The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana. Juliet Stevenson reads Emile Zola's novel 11.00 NEWS; World of Pub. A four-part comedy by Tony Roche. 2: Things are looking bad for Barry and Gary. The pub is empty and they are on the verge of bankruptcy. When Barry says they need a miracle to sort them out, Dodgy Phil obliges. With John Thomson, Phil Cornwell and Alastair McGowan.
11.30 Experimental Feature: The Hand of Friendship.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort.
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 At World Service.
1.30 World News.
1.35 Shipping Forecast.
1.40 Inshore Forecast.
1.45 Prayer for the Day.
1.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.
RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Hardest Game. Continuing the series in which former BBC boxing correspondent Harry Carpenter reflects on the sport from the 1950s to the present day. 'The Greatest Heavyweight of Them All'. Harry Carpenter remembers the phenomenon that was Muhammad Ali.
8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet and the team investigate the issues that affect the sporting world.
9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddy M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene.

9.30 Sportshop. Tribe Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest sporting gadgets.

10.00 Late Night Live. With Brian Hayes. Ind 1033 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.1MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly.
12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto.
3.00 Jamie Crichton. 6.30 Newsnight.
7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven.
9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 3.00 Mark Griffiths. 5.00 - 6.00 Nick Bailey.

VIRGIN RADIO

(121.197-1250kHz MW) 1058MHz FM

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest.

10.00 Richard Allen. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Performance. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (400-700).

TALK RADIO

6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Rabeurn. 3.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James White. 12.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

SATELLITE AND CABLE



PICK OF THE DAY

THE COEN BROTHERS' films are distinguished by a marvellously quirky world-view. Four of their finest are showcased tonight, starting with *The Hudsucker Proxy* (Spun FilmFour), their homage to Capra, in which Tim Robbins is pulled from the mail room to challenge the way Paul Newman is running a giant corporation. It continues with: *Barton Fink* (10pm), in which arty playwright John Turturro experiences writer's block when

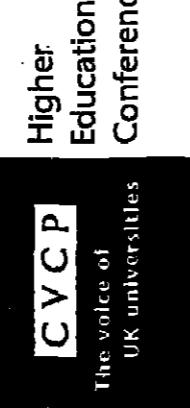
he is brought to LA to work for Hollywood producer Michael Lerner. *Miller's Crossing* (12am), a finely written 1930s crime drama which sees Gabriel Byrne (right) using unorthodox methods to save his boss, Albert Finney; and *Blood Simple* (2am), their creepy atmospheric low-budget tribute to *film noir* which stars Frances McDormand, the actress who went on to win an Oscar in their *Fargo*. JAMES RANPTON

3.35 History's *Turning Points* (047532). 1.00 *History's Turning Points* (047532). 1.30-2.00 *Flightline* (552223).
SKY ONE
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Access details for disabled applicants may be obtained from Margaret Merchant on **Milton Keynes** (01992 552066).

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Please contact **Marilyn Salvyn on Milton Keynes** (01992 552032) for access details for disabled applicants.

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For the above posts the further particulars and application forms are available from Mrs J. L. Lindsay, Faculty of Arts, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, Telephone **Milton Keynes** (01992 654901) (Minicom answerphone).

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How schools and parents can help children fight the flab Page 8

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The online truth is out!

The lecturer of the future will offer patience and sympathy to students, not revelation. By Lucy Hodges

Will your contemporary
sustained academic
become obsolete
in the brave new
world ushered in
by information
technology? Will students simply
research a subject on the Net, chat
into another in online discussion
groups, and conduct computer-based
simulations without having to sit at the
feet of Professor Blogs?

Such questions are being asked as
universities adopt new technology to
make teaching more exciting, as stu-
dents increasingly bring their own
computers with them to college - and
as universities opt for national banks
of computer-assessed exam questions.

It was revealed last week at the Royal
Geographical Society's annual confer-
ence that four universities have devised
a set of 20,000 computer-marked ques-
tions.

Staff at traditional universities say
students will still need the teachers in
their corduroy suits even with all the
new technology.

"Good quality education depends on
interaction among people, and the role
of technology is to facilitate and aid stu-
dents, not to replace academics," says
Sir Derek Robert, provost of Univer-
sity College, London.

The real bonus lies further. Tim
O'Shea, master of Birbeck College,
London, and formerly of the Open Uni-
versity, argues that new technology re-
quires more of teachers because of its
interactive nature, and that it certainly
doesn't save money. For example, 11
lecturers at the university communicate
by e-mail. And these messages need
answers from armies of online tutors.
It also means academics have to be-
come like scriptwriters, spending hours
designing and honing material for the
small screen. "You may spend three
hours preparing a lecture that takes one
hour to deliver, but 200 hours program-
ming computer-assisted learning that
lasts one hour," says O'Shea.

Some universities, however, are
using the new technology to save on
expenses. The University of Phoenix
in America, a profit-making distance
learning outfit, offers degrees on the
Internet and employs very few con-
ventional lecturers, thereby saving
millions of dollars.

Only 18 per cent of its faculty are
classified as teachers or educators, ac-
cording to Professor Jose-Marie Griff.
Moreover, the level and quality of their
students are not clear. Most are what
the university calls "practitioners",
professionals who work on companies'
full time and are paid by the course.

The work load is held by any stu-
dents. One faculty member reported
teaching 36 classes a year on top of his
full-time job as a management consul-
tant. "One has to wonder about the qual-
ity of the teacher" - and of his
management consultancy," says Griff.
but no longer for remuneration.

Ills, who works in the school of infor-
mation at Michigan, All faculty mem-
bers teach from a standardised syllabus
from the university.

Such stories spark conventional tech-
nicians, some of whom regard the new
technologies with awe, if not disbelief.
At University College, London (UCL),
a new initiative has been launched to
try to persuade all academics that
computers can improve their teaching
and students' learning. New universi-
ties have been in the vanguard. But old
universities are playing catch-up.

UCL has combined its computer
centre, library, media resources and ed-
ucational professional development
into one division. It is helping enthusiasts
to develop materials for their
teaching and putting on exhibitions to
show what can be done.

University College London is there-
fore trying to put itself on the map. It may
not be as advanced as Uist, Man-
chester, Bristol or Liverpool, which have
been investing in new technology for
some time, but it is making a start.

At the University of Michigan, huge
effort has gone into designing and
modifying courses for electronic de-
livery. This has required 20 per cent
more effort on the part of academics,
says Professor Griffiths.

A home-grown illustration of just how
much effort is needed is provided by the
Open University (OU), the world leader
in producing quality distance learning
materials. It is doing so with staffing lev-
els that are eye-popping to traditional
universities - 50 full-time academics
and 100 full-time support staff.

The key question is not so much
whether academics will become obso-
lete, but how they will change. In-
stead of academic worth-being seen as
amateur and craft-based, aimed at
smallish groups of students, the acad-
emic becomes an expert, says Diana
Laurillard, Pro-vice-chancellor at the
OU. "They become responsible for
multimedia resources that thousands
can use. At the same time they'll still
have to work as a small group mentor."

Thus the academics of the future will
have different qualities. They really
have to put themselves in the place of
the student to design good computer-
based materials, according to O'Shea.
"They have to imagine the student ex-
perience."

And for the online tutoring they
need patience and sympathy. These are
no longer qualities which have
been expected of academics.

"The thing that the tutor has lost is
the exposition. They do not reveal the
truth any more. The tutor has moved
from being able to point the latter cor-
rectly to being the former cor-
rectly. The student will look to the ac-
ademic for support and encouragement.

"The teacher" - and of his
understanding, it means



David Blunkett enjoys a demonstration of airflow at the opening of a technology centre at Sheffield

THE COMPUTER PROGRAMME THAT MARKS COURSEWORK

TACO - this is not the tasty Mexican dish, but a useful piece of software enabling students' coursework to be marked online. With rising student numbers, the marking lecturers have to do more and more.

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The making of a history graduate

A controversial attempt to benchmark university subjects seems to be bearing fruit in history says Anthony Fletcher. Thinking is governed by a deeply held view about how history trains the mind

The Quality Assurance Agency sees subject benchmarking as a key element in marking a new model for assurance of quality and standards, yet, when it is consulted on this, the response of higher education institutions was cool. Only about a quarter expressed support for the principle of benchmarking; most were neutral or had reservations; a minority were opposed principle or highly critical.

Yet the experience of history is beginning to suggest that benchmarking may be going to be useful. Indeed that may be catching the subject the process is welcome.

The History Group has been discussing benchmarking since April. It is a representative group in terms of old

and new universities, and it is relevant to their local circumstances – it needs to be compact, heterogeneous in scope.

Thus we have discussed the historical qualities of mind: those include the ability to read texts critically, to appreciate the problems that are involved in interpreting complex, ambiguous and usually incomplete material, to sift,

select, organise and synthesise large quantities of evidence and to narrate within the discipline. The group has 18 members in all.

Written responses received from the profession to the draft statement are generally favourable. When around 60 historians from across the UK met the group just before Christmas there was lively discussion of many aspects of the statement, all of it supportive.

Today the group meets John Randall, chief executive of the QAA, to discuss the dissemination of the final statement.

How is it that we may have con-

founded the sceptics? In the first place,

it has never entered our minds that our

teach might involve establishing a national curriculum in history, or that we

much more at university than simply

teaching Quality Assess-

It is crucial a scheme emerges which is convincing, coherent and acceptable

standardisation. This is a far more complex matter than teaching Quality Assess-

ment.

Everyone accepts that students do

well in any way wish to sit in creatively,

diversity and innovation in teaching the subject. We've tried to tread the narrow path between writing an account of the subject that's sufficiently challenging, and being too prescriptive about how to teach or assess their students.

The Quality Assurance Agency asked us to produce "broad statements which represent general ex-

pectations about standards". There

has been a constant dialogue – both be-

between ourselves and with the agency – about what precisely we are trying to do. We have tried ourselves to be more comfortable writing with the achieve-

ment of the typical student in mind, and

our assumption has been that for staff

and students – considering it in rel-

ation to their local circumstances – it re-

quires to be compact, heterogeneous in scope.

Thus we have discussed the historical

qualities of mind: those include the ability to read texts critically, to ap-

preciate the problems that are involved in interpreting complex, ambiguous and

usually incomplete material, to sift,

select, organise and synthesise large

quantities of evidence and to narrate

within the discipline. The group has 18

members in all.

Written responses received from the

profession to the draft statement are

generally favourable. When around

60 historians from across the UK met

the group just before Christmas there

was lively discussion of many aspects

of the statement, all of it supportive.

Today the group meets John Randall,

chief executive of the QAA, to discuss

the dissemination of the final statement.

How is it that we may have con-

founded the sceptics? In the first place,

it has never entered our minds that our

teach might involve establishing a na-

tional curriculum in history, or that we

much more at university than simply

teaching Quality Assess-

ment.

Everyone accepts that students do

well in any way wish to sit in creatively,

diversity and innovation in teaching the

subject. We've tried to tread the narrow

path between writing an account of the

subject that's sufficiently challenging,

and being too prescriptive about how

to teach or assess their students.

The Quality Assurance Agency

asked us to produce "broad state-

ments which represent general ex-

pectations about standards". There

has been a constant dialogue – both be-

between ourselves and with the agency – about what precisely we are trying to do. We have tried ourselves to be more

comfortable writing with the achieve-

ment of the typical student in mind, and

our assumption has been that for staff

and students – considering it in rel-

ation to their local circumstances – it re-

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usually incomplete material, to sift,

Principals and princes put themselves in the hot seat

In need of a chair

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCOP) got off to a slightly shaky start this millennium year. Ever since the resignation of Mike Fitzgerald, the colourless Vice-chancellor of Thames Valley University, following a daunting report on its progress from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), the CVCOP has suffered a spate of blips. Dr Fitzgerald was also vice-chairman of the CVCOP at the time of his departure, and might well have been in line for the chair. A new and equally good vice-chairman was easily found in the shape of Roderick Floud, Provost of London Guildhall University, and former Professor of Modern History at Birkbeck College, London University. When came his quest for a chairman to succeed Professor Martin Harris, the Vice-chancellor of Manchester University. Two other vice-chairmen were in situ: Professor Sir John Arbuthnott, Principal of the University of Strathclyde; and Professor Howard Newby, Vice-chancellor of Southampton University.

Both were nominated for the unenviable post, and one or other should have been elected chairman by 1998/2000 without much fuss this spring. Yet suddenly both decided to withdraw from the race. Why? Good question. One explanation was that the CVCOP is to "review its structure under way in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland". No, honest, it's true. They have even set up a special working party of academics to look into the matter. The academics are great at setting up committees, sub-committees and working parties to work out such a new structure. It is to be chaired by Dr Kenneth Edwards, Vice-Chancellor of Leicester University, and I can only wish him luck. In light of all this to-ing and fro-ing, a postponement of the chairmanship election is to be sought following the CVCOP's main committee meeting in March.

Taylor-made

Meanwhile, back at Thame's Valley University, Bill Taylor has settled in nicely as a caretaker VC. He put the university back on a firm footing, following publication of that dreadful QAA report. If anyone can do it, Sir William can. If it was, as I'm sure you will all recall, w^u performed such a miracle for Peter Durants at Huddersfield University after its own Vice-Chancellor (Professor Kenneth Durants) was asked to pack his bags two or three years ago. In fact, Sir William is

WORD OF MOUTH

JOHN ZBICKI



Edward Windsor and Friend

Two colleges, both part of the University of London, are to merge. It is a strange marriage, for the two are about as far apart in distance and ethos as one might imagine, but I am assured that it will be properly consummated. John Prescott has promised all concerned that this will be a splendid partnership, and who am I to argue with him? No, no, not our dear Deputy Prime Minister, but Professor John Prescott, principal of Wye College, that super-agricultural establishment at Ashford in Kent. And the new partner?

None other than Imperial College, which dominates Knightsbridge in the heart of London. All is set for August next year - if, that is, the necessary bill manages to pass through the Houses of Parliament in time.

And finally...

Why not stay with Wye College? It's the only college I know that manages to say all there is to say on two sides of its A4 newsletter, which recently celebrated a decade of weekly publications. Ten years was enough for Tom Hill, the editor and college's assistant director of administration, so he passed the editor's mantle to Wendy Ruscliffe, who has kept up the tradition of producing funny tailpieces. There are a few of them:

From insurance form statutorians: "In my attempt to hit a fly I drove into a

telephone pole". An invisible ear-piercing noise struck my hand and vanished". Not to be outdone, "Low Self-Esteem Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please bring the back door". "Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church, Prague. Please use large double door at side entrance". And finally: "The associate minister unveiled the church's new life-changing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'Lipstick on a pig'."

Columbian play safe

Reverers of the condom, which at an annual fair had to step aside when a giant inflated contraption snaked through downtown Cali, Colombia's third-largest city. The Guinness Book of Records has recognised the condom, which weighed about 1,350kg, as the largest ever made. A project organiser said: "The idea is to show people that Aids is huge problem - much bigger than this condom." The condom took two months to build at a cost of \$8,000 and was paid for by Santiago de Cal University and a condom manufacturer.

One module will cover the rare pub pastime of "wyle lanting" - a bizarre game in which drunks dressed as scarecrows dodge mops soaked in beer.

ODDLY ENOUGH

NICK FEARN

beer. Students will learn the difference between lagers, pils and stouts. Topics include strange pub names, pub grub and, disturbingly, where to find the country's strongest beer.

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Further particulars and an application form can be obtained from the Secretary of the Faculty Board of Engineering, Department of Engineering, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1FZ, tel: 01223 330315, fax: 01223 330316. Email: ibdrec@cam.ac.uk. To whom completed application forms should be sent as soon as possible, no later than 11 February 1999.

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A-Z OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Cheltenham and Gloucester



Age: 11

Only a sprig, then? Yes, though its roots go way back. It was born of a merger between the College of St Paul and St Mary's Church of England teacher-training college created in 1847 and the higher education College of Gloucestershire of Arts and Technology.

Address: Cheltenham, Park campus is set in 30 acres of parkland; Painswick campus, containing art and design, has a new media block plus exhibition spaces; Francis Close Hall, based on a former historic quadrangular leisure and environment studies.

Ambience: "Three main sites in Cheltenham: Park campus is set in 30 acres of parkland; Painswick campus, containing art and design, has a new media block plus exhibition spaces; Francis Close Hall, based on a former historic quadrangular leisure and environment studies.

Vital statistics: It's a big college with more education with more than 8,000 full and part-time students - and is highly thought of. The college has the power to award its own taught and research degrees, is for students of leisure and environment studies.

Teaching: Scored 20 out of 24 in sociology and media studies; 21 in town and country planning and landscape, rated good to very good in primary teacher-training sweep. Ditto with history, maths and foreign languages in secondary teacher training.

Research: Better: than new universities in the research assessment exercise. Achieved a 4 (top grade) in town and country planning.

Student life: Gloucester is expected to be added. Added values: Bright students and widening students' union.

Easy to get into? You need two A-level passes, averaging 10 to 16 points minimum of C and a D. But the college takes mature students without A-levels.

Lucy Hodges

Newham schools face some of the toughest social problems in the country but Ofsted is delighted with the progress its council has made. By Ben Russell

existing school standards in the deprived inner city is out of the rainbow, the goal sought by schools, education experts, and a diverse oil-paint

column. Last week the Office for Standards in Education declared that it could do more. Ofsted, which has provoked anger for its drumming criticism of urban local authorities in Manchester, Hackney and Croydon, called the London borough of Newham "a credit to the nation, even though seven of its schools are classed as failing and another is deemed to have serious weaknesses. Inspectors praise the Labour-run authority for its unwillingness to tolerate failure and for its "dynamic and imaginative professional leadership". They say: "It serves the country well in demonstrating, in common with a very small number of authorities, how effective it is to take on the challenge to change the assumption that poverty and ethnic diversity must necessarily lead to failure at school."

The East End borough is one of Britain's most deprived areas. The figures tell it all. Nearly half of all children have free school meals. One in five comes from a single-parent household. Nearly two-thirds come from ethnic minorities and half speak English as their second language. The area, well to the east of London's Isle of Dogs, is one

High standards in !

THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday, 14 January 1999

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Au revoir children, I'm off

Qualified language teachers are leaving the profession to take up highly paid jobs in City firms, where they feel their hard-won talents will be appreciated. Carol Toms explains why they're going



Trecently left modern languages teaching for an excellent job outside teaching. It wasn't the money that drove me to leave, but a series of other factors which are repeated all over the country as good linguists leave teaching. It is a crying shame that teachers who have studied and trained for five years should be lost to the education system so easily.

Undergraduates considering teaching modern languages may be deterred for several reasons: they study for four years for their first degree, and to add a PGCE may seem a year too long to exist as a student for many people.

Debt increases, and although there is the promise of an adequate salary at the end, peers are strapped up by blue chip companies after their degree, on salaries of £17,000 upwards – and their peers use their languages to do more than order 'un coq à la bonne poitrine'.

Graduates who spend four years analysing the existential qualities of Camus come down to earth with a bang as they start their PGCE and learn lots of French or German or Spanish or Italian, that they had never come across before – for instance 'turn to page 23', 'where is your homework?'; 'complete the table on page 58 as you listen to the cassette.'

Then they hit the classroom on teaching practice and watch professionals with an excellent command of the language spend 25 minutes trying to teach a bunch of bored teenagers how to book a room in a youth hostel, whilst the class: 'I don't know what a青年旅館 is!'; 'I don't care; I am never likely to go to France anyway.'

Many schools advertise posts for dual PGCEs, making it difficult for those with only one language to find a post. It is the same schools demanding two languages from their staff that only allow their pupils to study one of the two. In the school I taught in, six out of 90 pupils took two languages at GCSE last year. No-one from that school will sit two language GCSEs in 1999 or 2000. This is not an isolated problem, as, studying two languages to GCSE level is increasingly rare in comprehensive schools.

Get over a huge salary and a benefits package bigger than free red pens in the City, get on to a PGCE course, survive it and begin an unpaid traineeship, manage to find a job. Then you will begin to suffer the

ted: with classes that size, in 35 minutes each child would be heard for less than a minute.

Modern approaches to language teaching mean that the days of chanting verbs or even sitting in a language order are over: target language is the order of the day – every word is in the language from the moment the pupils enter a classroom. Here is not the place to debate the virtues of this method, but it has brought more fun into pupils' lessons – games, drama, IT and videos are part of lessons in many schools. But if you're teaching in a school where the IT facilities available to you are two clapped-out ZENs and an Apple Mac covered in a inch and a half of chalk dust, all between five classes, then it's in the national curriculum is a bit of a joke.

Booking a proper IT room meant having to travel to the teacher who is supposed to be in there, and carting books and dictionaries around there for 35 minutes. Drama and games for classes of 30 and upwards in rooms built for 25 pupils required a degree of organisation that a military commander would be proud of.

Language teachers often complain of a lack of interest from their pupils. Pupils can be motivated by games, drama, IT and decent books, but only if their teachers are also motivated. Disenchanted teachers produce disenchanted pupils.

Language teaching is a fight:

- With parents who have had no experience, or negative experiences, of language learning at school.
- With the media who portray Britain as a nation of poor linguists, and reinforce the view that everyone in the world speaks English if you shout loudly and slowly.
- With other professionals who say: "Why should a child who has difficulties in English waste valuable time on another language?"
- With the children who soak up all these views.

For money to be spent on expensive items such as tape players, videos and software, rather than on library books, for example.

It is little wonder, then, that professionals give up the fight, battle weary and retire to other jobs, where sparring qualifications are not necessary.

As for me, I have not spoken a word of French since I left teaching, leaving my teaching job, and said: 'Au revoir; et bonnes vacances mes enfants.'

Philip Meech

CLASS SIZES: A favourite man of teachers who, rather than teaching challenging material, manage to bore teenagers.

POOR RESOURCES: Tape players that were unreliable and liable to ruin a lesson plan at a moment's notice. Fifteen dictionaries between 30 children, bound simultaneously, for a child to have the same book to share.

OPPORTUNITIES: Text books that the children have to share.

PROBLEMS: Problems which, together with a management style that lacked care, led to my leaving teaching.

POOR INSPECTION: Inspectors who said recently that a parent could learn all that was needed about a school in an hour's visit.

REPUTATION: An inspection should be a constructive, supportive advisory service from a well qualified, well informed and respected inspectorate. If it is not, it fails.

CHRIS WOODHEAD, the chief inspector of schools and the head of Ofsted, tells us that four of five primary schools were happy with their inspections (EDUCATION, 6 January).

Some 252 out of the 1,260 schools he inspects were therefore not happy. Of

III sweepstakes USIH



PASSED/FAILED

CORIN REDGRAVE

Corin Redgrave, 59, is an actor and author of 'Michael Redgrave My Father'. He is currently appearing with his wife, Kika Markham, in Noel Coward's 'Song at Twilight' at the King's Head, Islington – and in 'De Profundis', which opens tonight at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. His sisters are the actresses Vanessa and Lynn Redgrave

because I hadn't prepared at all. I did prepare for my finals and got a first. I had started fencing at Westminster with the greatest of all sabre-teachers, Bella Imrie, and I fenced for Cambridge. I was good enough to beat anyone in England but not all the time. I had to make a choice between acting and fencing, and I chose acting.

Son, you were wonderful! My father came up to see me in only one production, when I played Horner in 'The Canterbury Wife'. I was probably in a blind panic, but he said 'I'd laugh him a lot.'

INTERVIEW: JONATHAN SALE
INTERVIEW: JONATHAN SALE

freeze school My very first school was a classroom in Westminster School. It was evacuated during the War to Bucknill Hill, a very large, old, old farm house in Herefordshire. We had been evacuated to Bromyard, three miles away, and I remember crying with the cold as we walked that long distance. I was three or four years old and must have been there for a year. There were about 20 of us in the class, which included Vanessa, but not Lynn, who was a baby.

St Vicar's We went back to London in 1944 but I didn't go to school until a year after the war, when I was six and went to a state primary school with Vanessa, for one term. This was difficult; my father was now a well-known film star and we were treated as oddities. Then, for a year, Miss Glascott came to teach eight or nine of us, including Vanessa, Matthew Guiness (Alec Guinness's son) and the vicar's three sons, in the vicarage. This was an ideal form of school and teaching.

St Satan's In the summer of 1949 I arrived at Wells House in the Malvern Hills. The headmaster was Mr Devil incarnate. He had a definite penchant for corporal punishment. He would make these terrible, swooping draconian announcements and announce someone had done something awful. He encouraged boys to be informers and vigilantes. It gave me an ambivalent feeling about that beautiful countryside – a sense of loss. If you lay in the dormitory thinking of home, you'd hear a steam engine going to Paddington and think of all the happy people on that train.

Babie roarer After four terms I went to a day school, Eaton College. It was near Eaton Square at the time and stayed until I was 13. It wasn't as good from the point of view of teaching but it was a nice place to be. Then I went to Westminster School. There were two or three outstanding teachers. Stephen Lushington

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Three parent governors and three local authority governors given seats on the education committee.

LABOUR'S INNOVATIONS IN NEWHAM
college to raise staying-on. New system of grants for all sixth-formers whose families are on income support.
Every school has own local council Inspector as part of a quality control scheme to monitor the performance of heads and teachers.
Schools to raise standards. Special needs children integrated into mainstream schools. Support for children speaking English as a foreign language.
Three parent governors and three local authority governors given seats on the education committee.

Inspectors bring misery, not support

In a grammar school, Although I agreed with most of the comments made, surely the real experts are the people who actually teach the vast majority of children – ie those in non-selective schools.

As a teacher of seven-year-olds, I have been excited by the Government's obvious commitment to education. My own class had been reduced from 38 to 32, vast improvements in the quality of education that I am able to deliver. We have also had three of our 12 rotten windows replaced and new drains. Unfortunately the roof is still held up with pit

props and some of our junior classes are still over 36. But I feel optimistic about the way education is going. I would feel more enthusiastic if Chris Woodhead was sacked. There is room for improvement, but we are moving in the right direction.

S R HOWTHRE
Dunfield, Sheffield

Send letters to Wendy Berliner, Editor, EDUCATION, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E1 2SD. Include a daytime telephone number (fax: 0171 203 2451; e-mail: educat@independent.co.uk)

YOUR VIEWS

In just how accountable is Ofsted itself, headed by somebody who said recently that a parent could learn all that was needed about a school in an hour's visit?

MRS B KILBY
Hornsea, East Riding of Yorkshire

Whom there seems to be very little respect from either staff or children

Things are getting better

I was amazed that in the otherwise excellent article, "Labour's and of term report" (EDUCATION, 31 December), in which experts commented on the state of education, you included the opinions of only one person actually teaching, and he taught

reputation? And just how accountable is Ofsted itself, headed by somebody who said recently that a parent could learn all that was needed about a school in an hour's visit?

An inspection should be a constructive, supportive advisory service from a well qualified, well informed and respected inspectorate. If it is not, it fails.

CHRIS WOODHEAD, the chief inspector of schools and the head of Ofsted, tells us that four of five primary schools were happy with their inspections (EDUCATION, 6 January).

Some 252 out of the 1,260 schools he inspects were therefore not happy. Of

inspectors were therefore not happy. Of

